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Russia Still Opposed to NATO Enlargement

MOSCOW — Russia reiterated its opposition to NATO enlargement Wednesday after U.S. President Bill Clinton called for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be opened up to new members in 1999.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevegeny Primakov, in response to Clinton's statement Tuesday, told reporters here: "We confirm our negative position on NATO's enlargement's plans."

Asked whether he thought the alliance could take in new members by the year 1999, the foreign minister said: "We will see what happens."

(Contd on Pg.14)

Dostam's Forces Join Troops of Masood in Attacking Kabul

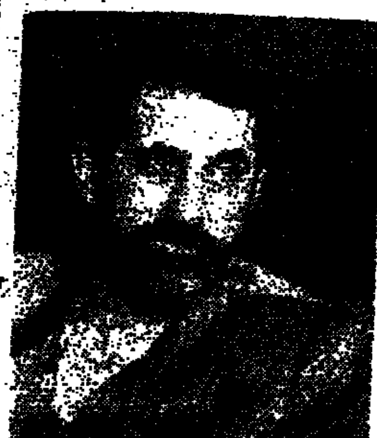
KABUL — The Taleban movement warned on Wednesday its forces would strike back militarily at a powerful Afghan warlord if his forces attacked the religious militia north of here.

Acting minister of information and culture Amir Khan Muttaqi said that if General Abdul Rashid Dostam joined forces with the ousted government, the Taleban would have no choice but to retaliate.

"If Dostam or anybody else attacks then we have to defend ourselves, our people and the Islamic state of Afghanistan," Muttaqi told journalists here.

(Contd on Pg.14)

Iran Welcomes Active Presence of France in Mideast



VELAYATI

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday welcomed active presence of France in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf regions saying that this presence will be a hurdle in the way of U.S. hegemony.

Voicing Iran's rejection of unilateral approach of the U.S. and Washington's monopolistic policy in the region, Velayati said that efforts of France and other members of the European Union to become involved in Middle East affairs pose obstacles for U.S. monopoly.

Speaking in a press conference, Velayati added that France is an important and determining factor in the international scene and an active member of the European Union. He stipulated that presence of Paris in the region indicates that the European Union has come to its senses and wants to play a role independent of the U.S..

"This is considered as a positive development in the international scene," he told reporters.

On developments in northern Iraq, he reiterated Iran's stand that northern Iraq could not be administered by a specific Kurdish group because both rival factions have deep roots in the region.

Stressing that there is no military solution to the problem of northern Iraq and referring to Iran's friendly ties with both Kurdish factions, Velayati voiced Iran's readiness to mediate between the two warring groups.

On U.S. mediation efforts between the two Iraqi Kurdish groups, Foreign Minister Velayati said what is important to Iran is the cessation of war and establishment of peace.

Expressing doubt on U.S. good will in this connection, he said, "We doubt the U.S. mediation will succeed because the Americans have no good will and seek their own interests."

The Iranian foreign minister

(Contd on Pg. 14)

ESCAP Meeting on Infrastructure Opens

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI — "We are beginning to realize that without adequate infrastructure there cannot be economic growth and even where growth in industry and trade have occurred according to their own dynamics, their growth cannot be sustained without infrastructure," the Minister of Surcae Transport of India, T.C. Venkacraman, told delegates attending the inaugural session of the Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Meeting on Infrastructure which opened today.

Delegates to the meeting started work with senior government officials discussing issues pertaining to infrastructure in preparation for the formal ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure which has been scheduled for October 28-29, 1996.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

President Receives Indian Vice President



Photo: Mojtaba Takin

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the Indian Vice President, K.R. Narayanan, here on Wednesday.

Submitting the warmest greetings of Indian President Krisna Dayal Sharma, Narayanan called Iran the center of culture, literature and civilization in Asia, adding that Iranian architecture, literature and culture have influenced India.

He condemned the arrogant powers' pressures on independent and developing countries, saying that India strongly supports the Islamic Republic of Iran for its independent and firm stance vis-a-vis the expansionist policies of arrogant powers.

Referring to cultural and historical commonalities which exist between Iran and India, Narayanan underlined that India attaches great importance to broadening relations with Iran.

He further elaborated on the importance of Iran's strategic lo-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Russian FM Calls Chirac Mideast Tour "Positive"

U.S. WARNS EUROPE TO STAY OUT OF TALKS

Compiled From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov described French President Jacques Chirac's controversial tour of the Middle East as "positive" Wednesday, praising the European role in peace negotiations.

"The European Union and France are naturally making a very positive contribution to the peace process in the Middle East and that goes for Chirac's visit." Primakov said at a press conference with his Yemeni counterpart Abdelkerim Al Ariani, on a visit to Moscow.

During a two-day trip that ended Tuesday, Chirac received a cool reception in Israel, where the government rejected his call for a greater European role in largely U.S.-brokered peace negotiations.

The trip ended on a particularly sour note when Chirac lodged a formal protest over the deployment of a large Israeli police force during his visit to holy sites in Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

French President Jacques Chirac flew into the Gaza Strip with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday on the second leg of a popularly acclaimed one-day visit to the self-rule territories.

Chirac and Arafat arrived from the West Bank town of Ramallah where the French president be-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Iraqi Kurds Expected to Announce Cease-Fire

Compiled From Dispatches

ANKARA — The two warring Kurdish factions in northern Iraq were expected to announce a formal cease-fire agreement later Wednesday, sources close to the just-concluded U.S.-Kurds talks said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



ANKARA, Turkey (October 22): Leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani (L) shakes hand with Robert Pelletreau (R), U.S. envoy and assistant secretary of state, as they meet in Ankara. Pelletreau is trying to secure a truce between the warring Iraqi Kurdish groups and end the latest round of fighting in the Kurdish "safe haven" set up by the U.S.-led allies in northern Iraq after the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

(AFP PHOTO)

Majlis, Government Fully Support the Agricultural Sector



SHOJA'

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Head of the Majlis Agriculture Committee, Abdul-ghaffar Shoja' told the *Tehran Times* that both the Majlis and the government wholeheartedly sup-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Union of Parliaments, a Legislative Arm in the Hands of OIC

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Chairman of Sudan Foreign Parliamentary Relations Commission, Mohamed Shakir Alsarrag told the *Tehran Times* that holding inter-parliamentary meetings among Islamic countries is a very important step towards strengthening solidarity among the Muslim *Ummah*.

Speaking on the sidelines of a planning committee for the establishment of the Islamic Countries' Union of Parliaments, Alsarrag said that the Muslim population is almost one fifth of the world's population, about one billion, and that the establishment of the parliaments' union enables the Islamic Ummah to be represented in a constitutional way.

Terming the Islamic Countries' Union of Parliaments as a legislative arm in the hands of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), he said that the union would pave the way for further cooperation among Islamic countries.

ALSARRAG...

He expressed hope that the un-

(Contd on Pg.15)

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In the Name of Allah

Thus they were vanquished there, and they went back abased.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:119)

OPINION

Iran Must Be Helped in Coping with Kurdish Refugees

The Kurdish refugees in Iran or on the border between Iran and Iraq must be supported. According to the latest assessment of the number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees, as a result of the resent fighting, almost 100,000 have been settled in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The latest war between the two Kurdish groups has again created an unbearable situation for ordinary Kurds. Thus, thousands of refugees are daily approaching Iran in order to be sheltered, treated, and nourished.

As a humanitarian measure, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to accommodate and support the Kurdish refugees, but due to involvement in various internal projects, Iran has limited resources to allocate for such emergency external problems. Therefore, Iran should be aided in order to adequately tackle this problem.

Although there has been international aid to Iran in connection with the Iraqi Kurds, in comparison to the size of the problem, they have covered a tiny part of the expense. Moreover, as winter approaches, international relief agency aid should be increased.

The refugees--civilians, women and children, the elderly--face danger, insecurity, instability, and psychological pressure which the internal war has imposed on them. Thus, in addition to their materialistic needs, they should be helped psychologically. Of course, there are traumas which are the direct effect of the factional war; these refugees should feel that there is a global concern, not only about their daily life, but also about their future.

The primary concern of the Iraqi Kurds is, in the first place, to have a cease-fire, and, secondly, a fair and permanent peace. Both necessities can be achieved by putting international pressure on the Kurdish factions and those behind the scenes who fuel the fire. On the one hand, the world should condemn and attempt to put an end to the fighting, and, on the other hand, aid the homeless refugees.

Unilateral mediation of the U.S. to bring peace to the area will not succeed. A respectable and acceptable peace--an urgent need--must take into account all factional Kurdish views. Moreover, neighboring countries, such as Iran, which has thus far hosted the Kurdish refugees several times, should be one of the major entities to settle the Kurdish problem.

The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes a comprehensive and widely supported peace, to be arranged under UN auspices, with the participation of Iraq, Kurdish groups, and neighboring countries.

Int'l Congress on Plastic Surgery to Be Held in Tehran

TEHRAN -- An international congress on plastic surgery and orthopedics will be held in Tehran next week.

Secretary of the congress Seyyed Jamal Gousheh said 70 plastic surgeons from 20 countries are expected to take part in the congress.

On the goals of the congress, he said the congress is aimed at exchanging information among Iranian and foreign surgeons on the new techniques in plastic surgery and joining of artificial limbs to the disabled.

Gousheh said 108 papers are to be presented at the congress and some war veterans disabled during the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) would undergo plastic surgery jointly by Iranian and foreign specialists.

The five-day congress will start from October 27.

(IRNA)

2nd Meeting of Deputy FMs of Caspian Littoral States Starts Work

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Caspian Sea is the common heritage of its littoral states and should serve a vivid example of peace, friendship and cooperation among the countries bordering it, Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati stressed here Wednesday.

Addressing the opening session of the second meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of the Caspian Sea's littoral states, Velayati stated that the Caspian Sea has the potential to become an environment of security and peaceful coexistence for regional nations.

It plays an important role for the economics of its littoral nations both in terms of holding abundant oil and gas reserves and for utilization of its biological resources, he added.

(Contd on Pg.15)



Photo: Abbas Kowsari

President: Peace in Afghanistan Possible Only With Coordination Among All Factions

TEHRAN -- Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a message to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called for Iran's active cooperation in efforts aimed at putting an end to the crisis in neighboring Afghanistan.

In the message, submitted to Hojjatoleslam Rafsanjani by her special envoy Zafar Helali, Bhutto emphasized the willingness of her governement for further consolidation of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Helali told the Iranian president that Pakistan does not support any Afghan group and is readv to contribute to any proposal put forward by Iran to end the current crisis in Afghanistan.

Terming Iran the "best friend" of the Pakistani government and people, he stated that no factor whatsoever could disturb the sincere friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Expressing his deep regret over the crisis in Afghanistan which is only raising the life and material losses for that country, President Rafsanjani once again reiterated Iran's readiness to help find a solution to the Afghan problem in order to stop the bloodshed and fratricide.

He said that Iran has once again made it clear that there is no military solution to the Afghan crisis and that establishment of peace in the country could only materialize through peaceful talks among all Afghan factions and ethnic groups.

(IRNA)

Turkey for Expansion of Cultural Relations With Iran

TEHRAN -- Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mostafa Mirsalim met with his Turkish counterpart, Ismail Kahraman, here on Wednesday.

At the meeting the Turkish minister noted that Iran has an outstanding historical and cultural past and that the Turkish government is determined to broaden its cultural relations with the Islamic Republic.

He suggested that Iran and Turkey sign a cultural cooperation agreement when President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is to visit Turkey.

The Turkish minister said that holding of culture weeks and film festivals, exchange of calligraphic manuscripts and expansion of Persian and Turkish language courses are among the grounds for mutual cultural cooperation.

He also said that expansion of cooperation in tourism, setting up of book exhibitions and exchange of music bands are among other branches of cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the successful visit to Tehran by the Turkish prime minister and the emphasis placed on broadening of cooperation by the senior officials of the two countries, Mirsalim voiced readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for expansion of cultural cooperation between Iran and Turkey.

The Iranian minister added that there is no obstacle on the way of broadening relations between Iran and Turkey.

(IRNA)

Maldives for Strengthening of Ties With Islamic Iran

TEHRAN -- Iranian Accredited Ambassador to Maldives in a meeting on Tuesday in Male with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom handed over his credentials.

The Iranian Ambassador Ali Reza Motavalli Alamouti, in the meeting briefed the Maldives president on Iran's stand on regional developments and efforts made to strengthen and expand friendly ties between the two countries.

He also hailed the constructive role of Iran in regional affairs and expressed his willingness to hold talks with Iranian officials on subjects of mutual interest.

(IRNA)

Vaezi Holds Talks With Russian, Italian Deputy FMs

TEHRAN -- Tehran-Moscow ties have entered a new stage and the mutual trust further consolidates these ties, said Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi here Tuesday.

Vaezi made the remark during the first round of his talks with the visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister for Security and Disarmament Affairs Georgy Mamedov, who arrived here Monday on an official visit.

The forthcoming session of Joint Iran-Russia Economic Commission, the visit to Tehran of Russian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, preparations for the visit to Moscow of Iranian Majlis speaker and embarking on serious regional cooperation are all signs of growing relations between the two countries, he added.

Referring to the crisis in Afghanistan and ruling out any military settlement, the Iranian deputy foreign minister said no group should be allowed to dominate the others.

Vaezi emphasized that Iran, Russia and the Central Asian countries share common views on the issue. He added that Tehran and Moscow in their foreign policy attach importance to restoration of stability and peace to Afghanistan and settlement of regional crises in general.

Referring to the Tajik peace talks held in Tehran October 9-17, Vaezi said that the document which was discussed in the meeting could provide a good framework for the final settlement in the Tajik dispute, if it becomes finalized.

Outlining Iran's stand on the recent developments in northern Iraq and the crisis in the Middle East, the deputy foreign minister said the Islamic Republic is against any move threatening the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Mamedov describing Iran as a key country Russian foreign policy, stressed that Tehran-Moscow strategic relations will be maintained and protected regardless of any development in the region or the world.

On the same day, Vaezi held another meeting with the Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Patricia Toia.

In the meeting the two sides reviewed important regional and international issues including the situation in Afghanistan, northern Iraq, Tajikistan, Bosnia and the so-called Middle East peace process.

The Iranian official said the problem in Afghanistan can be solved only by peaceful means and through negotiation between all parties to the conflict in that country.

The visiting Italian Foreign Ministry official voiced concern about the deteriotating status of women in Afghanistan saying she

(Contd on Pg.15)

Czech President for Broadening of Ties With Iran

TEHRAN -- Outgoing Iranian Ambassador to Prague Rasoul Movahhedian met Czech President Vaclav Havel in Prague on Tuesday to bid farewell at the end of his tenure.

At the meeting the Czech president pointed to the importance of relations with Iran, and placed emphasis on further development of relations between the two countries especially in the economic sphere.

Earlier on Tuesday, Movahhedian had separate meetings with the Czech Minister of Industry and Trade, and the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic.

In the meetings, Movahhedian discussed the progress of ties between Islamic Iran and the Czech Republic during his assingment in Prague.

He emphasized the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for broadening of relations with the Czech Republic in all spheres.

(IRNA)

Rafsanjani's Message to Austrian Counterpart

TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Wednesday in a message to Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil felicitated him on the occasion of the Austrian National Day.

In his message, the president expressed hope that Tehran-Vienna historical and cordial relations will further expand on the basis of mutual respect and trust.

Meanwhile, the First Vice President Hassan Habibi in a message congratualed the Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, the government and the nation on the same occasion.

(IRNA)



8 Islamic Countries Open Cooperation Conference in Ankara

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The First Conference on Cooperation for Development of Islamic Countries started in Ankara with the participation of foreign ministers from eight countries, IRNA reported.

Participants in the conference are from Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said in his inaugural speech at the conference that developing Islamic countries should establish continual cooperation and interface with each other to ensure better trade relations between themselves and promote their economic growth as did the industrial nations.

He said the cooperation between the eight Islamic countries was not meant to cause any harm to any other nation, but rather strengthen relations with industrial nations.

Erbakan said the eight countries participating in the conference could promote their relations in such areas as trade and economy, energy, transportation, banking, foreign investment, telecommunications and free trade zones.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mrs. Tansu Ciller said at the conference that participating countries in the conference should explore the ways and means for instituting a work council with a view to exploiting their mutual trade and economic resources.

She said the private sectors in those countries could establish closer cooperation between themselves with a view to attaining their goals.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is being represented at the conference by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Capacity of Irano-Hind Shipping Company Up to 460,000 Tons

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Irano-Hind Shipping Company has increased its cargo capacity to 460,000 tons from 230,000 tons, by purchasing six giant oceangoing ships, it was announced here Wednesday.

Peyman Ghaffari, managing director of the company told IRNA yesterday that the company presently owns ten oceangoing ships with a total capacity of 230,000 tons.

The newly purchased ships, each with a life span of 22 years can carry one million tons of cargoes per year.

The company, affiliated to Iran's Commerce Ministry, is determined to modernize its ships and to this end three ships are to undergo overhaul by the end of the current Iranian year (to end March 20).

Some $60 million has been earmarked to purchase of the new ships, Ghaffari added.

India Invited to Achieve 300% Growth in Indo-Croatian Trade

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Croatia has invited India to set up an international trading center and a warehouse in its country to achieve 300 percent increase in bilateral trade between the two countries, IRNA reported.

If so happens the Indo-Croatian trade will touch the $100 million mark. At present it stands at about $30 million.

This was said by the leader of the Croatian business delegation, Savko Begic, in a press conference in New Delhi yesterday.

Begic also said that as a major manufacturer of ships, his country could meet India's demand for additional deadweight tons (dwt) capacity in the shipping sector.

Stating that Croatia has supplied most of the ships for India, he said that his country had a capacity of manufacturing ships with a combined capacity of one million dwt per year.

The Croatian delegation also invited India to invest in Croatian infrastructure and take part in that country's privatization process either through joint ventures or other forms of cooperation.

Power Generating Capacity in Indonesia Stands at 14,970 MW

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Indonesia's total installed electric power generating capacity has reached 14,970 mw, Alfian Helmy chief spokesman for the state-owned electricity corporation PT PLN said, IRNA reported.

The present capacity constituted an increase compared to the 410.5 mw in 1969/1970, Alfian Helmy said at an orientation meeting between the company and the press in Palembang yesterday.

Over 56,000 Tons of Minerals Exported

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 56,881 tons of minerals, worth $34,286 have been exported from Bandar Abbass Hormuzgan Province since March 20, reported IRNA.

Provincial Director General of Mines and Metals Department Mohammad Rezaie said Wednesday that the consignment, comprising chromite ore, gypsum and clay, was 25,965 tons more than the exports during the same period last year.

Also, 539,541 tons of minerals including chromite ore, gypsum, china and decorative stones were extracted from 43 active mines in Hormuzgan Province over the period.

China Accuses EU of Discrimination

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Chinese officials have accused the European Union (EU) of discriminatory trade practices, saying it still regards China as a non-market economy, an official English-language daily said Sunday, as quoted by AFP.

"We hope the EU side can abandon its discriminatory treatment of China and treat Sino-EU economic links with a long-term viewpoint," Liu Youhou, deputy director of the Trade Ministry's European Department told the *China Daily*.

The EU treats China as a non-market economy which means that it uses statistics from other countries to determine production costs in China and evaluate dumping charges.

Current dumping investigations against Chinese exports to the EU cover shoes, bags and unbleached cloth, which are all major foreign currency earners for China.

"If the investigations result in anti-dumping measures, losses on the Chinese side might add up to several billion dollars," Liu warned.

"We demand that the EU abandon its outdated practice of treating China as a non-market economy in such instances as when conducting dumping investigations," he added.

Dumping is the practice of selling goods at below their production cost, or below comparative price levels.

China's main imports from the EU are steel, wheat, machinery, electronics products and plastics. Its main exports to the EU are garments and other textiles products, toys, shoes and bags.

According to Chinese customs figures, trade between the EU and China reached 17.7 billion dollars in the first half of the year.

While Chinese exports dropped 0.3 percent to 8.7 billion dollars, EU exports rose 9.4 percent to nine billion dollars.

President Inaugurates Modern Tyre Manufacturing Plant

Tehran Times Service

ARDEBIL — A tyre manufacturing plant with an annual production capacity of 25,500 tons was inaugurated on Monday in this north-western city by president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, an IRNA report said.

The plant, completed at a cost of Rls. 70 billion plus $83 million in foreign exchange, provides jobs for 1,300 people.

Hojjatoleslam Rafsanjani in his inaugural address said that the country would become self-sufficient in tyre production before the end of the 2nd Five-Year Development Plan (1995-2000), and expressed hope that Iran would soon turn into an exporter of automobile tyres and tubes.

He called on Iranian experts to make every effort for manufacturing tyres for aircraft and heavy vehicles.

Minister of Industry, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, who was present at the inaugural function, said that Iran's tyre production next year is expected to reach 180,000 tons, making the country self-sufficient in this sector.

He described the Ardebil tyre manufacturing plant as one of the most modern of its kind.



TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (C) addresses culture ministers of seven member states of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) here yesterday. The president opened the Islamic Era Arts Collection at the National Museum.

Economic Empowerment Could Scare Away Investors From Africa

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - President Robert Mugabe on Wednesday urged foreign investors to enter into joint ventures with blacks in Southern Africa at an international conference aimed at attracting cash to the region, an AFP dispatch reported.

Mugabe, speaking as the trade and investment conference opened, said such ventures would help to economically empower blacks, disadvantaged by colonialism, but another speaker felt such efforts would scare away the desperately needed foreign funds.

Mugabe told around 350 participants that his government was promoting black economic empowerment as it commercialized and privatised its loss-making parastatals.

"Whilst there is much room for international investors in the privatization program, it is vital that the program incorporates the policy of indigenization to ensure the participation of indigenous people in the economy of their country," said Mugabe, one of only two heads of state attending the conference.

"Discussion in this conference should result in the reaffirmation of policy designed to improve intra-regional trade and investment opportunities that can also be taken advantage of by joint venture companies that include indigenous partners," Mugabe said.

But one participant at the summit was of the opinion that the "indigenisation" policy might act as a constraint to attracting investment.

Philip Clayton, senior economist with Standard Bank of South Africa warned that although nationalization was less likely than it was in the past, it remained a niggling concern.

"This is particularly the case when the "indigenisation" drum and land reform issues rise to the fore in the political debate," Clayton said moments after Mugabe spoke.

Investors are keen to see that their tenure is secure from arbitrary expropriation, and also that they can repartriate their profits and capital, he said.

Land reforms and the indigenization issues are hot and controversial issues in Zimbabwe's political fora.

Five heads of state had been billed to attend the second trade and investment summit from the continent's southernmost countries, but only President Ketumile Masire of Botswana is attending.

Mozambique is represented by Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, Zambia by Finance Minister Ronald Penza and Angola by public works and Town Planning Minister Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem.

Delegates, including political leaders, top international finance and business figures and foreign investors with interests in the region, said Southern Africa could be compared to the fast-growing East Asian so-called tiger economies.

Southern Africa is expected to experience the world's second-fastest growth rate in the next decade after the Pacific rim. The summit thus is seen as an opportunity to accurately assess the region's trade and investment potential.

The summit, organized by the *International Herald Tribune* newspaper, is designed for companies seeking direct investment and for multinational firms with interests in the region.

The first such summit held in Johannesburg last year in September attracted hundreds of participants from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Oman in Deal With U.S. Firm to Develop Stock Market

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Persian Gulf state of Oman has signed an agreement with a U.S. consultancy firm to develop its stock market to attract investment as part of overall economic reforms, officials said Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, as quoted by AFP.

The Muscat Securities Market signed the agreement with the Anderson Company for administrative consultancy and technology on Tuesday for a three-phase project, said the market's executive president Mahmud Jarwani.

It will cost around one million riyals (2.6 million dollars), he said.

The project involves computerization of the market and upgrading share-dealing and functions of the settlement and clearance section and other activities at the market, Jarwani told AFP by telephone from the Omani capital.

"It is part of the government's efforts to develop the economy and attract investment. It was also prompted by a surge in activity in the market and an increase in the number of trading companies," he said.

Jarwani said Oman had selected Anderson because of its experience in the development of stock markets around the world. The company has overseen the development of 22 bourses, including the London Market, he added.

The first six-month phase of the project is to be launched in January. The other two stages will also last six months each.

Jarwani said the project, the first of its kind in the oil-rich Persian Gulf region, also involved training of the employees and brokers on the new electronic dealing.

Oman, a non-OPEC oil producer, has been locked in sweeping reforms to revive its economy and ease reliance on unpredictable crude export earnings.

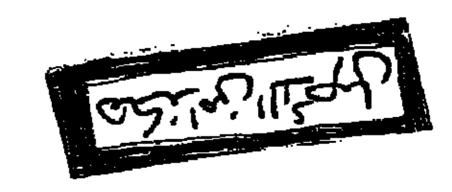
The reforms, the widest in the Persian Gulf, include privatization of public enterprises, fresh incentives for industrial projects, improvement of investment laws, and allowing foreigners to trade in shares.

Last year, Oman signed an accord with Bahrain to link their stock markets and officials said this would sharply boost activity at both bourses.

Although it was created only seven years ago, the Muscat Securities Market has become one of the busiest bourses in the region because of the reforms.

Jarwani's figures showed turnover, or the value of traded shares, exceeded 500 million dollars in the first nine months of 1996 compared with around 270 million dollars during the whole of 1995.

Market capitalization has steadily climbed over the past few years to peak at 3.8 billion dollars currently.



هكذا من الاصل

TEHRAN TIMES

President Opens Islamic Era Arts Collection at National Museum

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here on Wednesday that no one can deny the genuineness and richness of the Islamic culture and its conformity with human nature.

By relying on the Islamic culture and national values, Muslim nations can launch a new move towards perfection, the president said at the opening ceremony of a collection of artistic works belonging to the Islamic era at the National Museum.

Also present at the ceremony were culture ministers of seven member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

President Rafsanjani said the root and origin of civilization lie in the East, adding that the Islamic civilization has developed and been strengthened on the basis of the geographical and natural characteristics of the East.

The interference of certain unwise, ignorant and sentimental people in introducing Islamic teachings has tarnished the true image of Islam, the president said.

"Entrusting administration to some uneducated and boastful people like what we are now witnessing in Afghanistan discredits Islam, distorts realities and provides the enemies of Islam with an excuse to impose their rootless culture on Muslim nations," Rafsanjani said.

The president said that all Muslim countries including member states of the ECO should exchange experience and coordinate their efforts to benefit from the lofty and dynamic culture of Islam with an eye to establishment of peace, security, stability and friendship.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani received the ministers of culture of Turkey, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan respectively prior to the opening ceremony.

The ministers are currently on a visit to Tehran to attend a meeting of the Cultural Institute of the ECO.

President Rafsanjani said the ECO's Cultural Institute could bring about solidarity among the ECO member nations and revive the glory of the past.

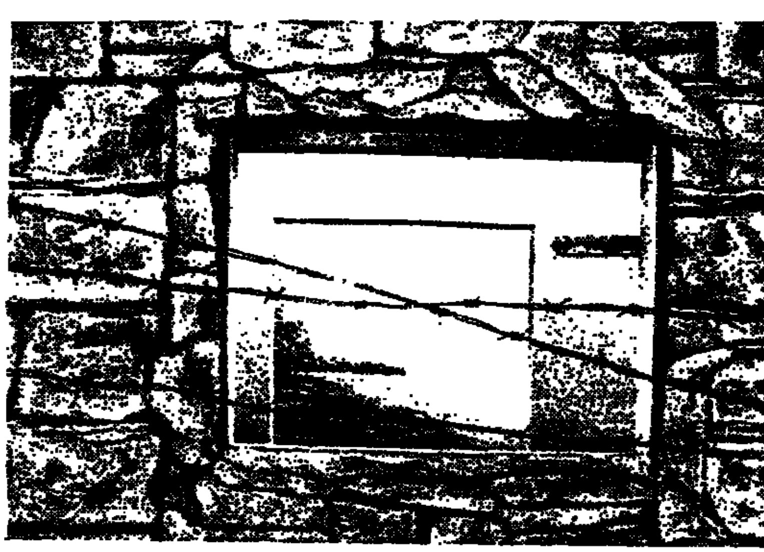
The ECO ministers of culture told the Iranian president that cultural cooperation of the ECO member states with Iran would serve to consolidate historical and national amity as well as their economic cooperation.

(IRNA)



TEHRAN (October 23)— The Treasury of the Islamic Era was inaugurated by President Hashemi Rafsanjani Wednesday. Visiting different sections of the treasury, the president appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Heritage Organization and the ECO Cultural Organization and called on the latter's member countries to give more attention to Islamic culture alongside their concern over their domestic affairs.
Photo: Mojtaba Takin

Getting to Know E'temadi and Her Works



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A recent exhibition at Golestan Gallery here highlighted 19 of the best works of Shahla E'temadi who has made a name for herself in contemporary painting.

E'temadi's paintings reveal a sad but curious glimpse into the world of her surroundings — ordinary subjects that mimic themes so wide apart in meaning. It is her way of telling the world everything has a purpose and meaning if only we take the time to appreciate them.

A view of the sea and its surrounding seashore are brought to life as she observes them in her own personal and unique way of appreciating nature's beauties.

E'temadi's works show her quest to conquer undiscovered areas of this vast field via the simple but rich vistas that hardly catch the eye of ordinary viewers.

In an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*, Shahla E'temadi, 41, talked about herself and her works.

Q: First of all, please give us a short biography of yourself.

A: I am Shahla E'temadi, born in 1955 in Tehran. From the early years of my childhood I was interested in painting. After receiving my diploma in natural sciences, in 1974 I entered the Al-Zahra University and took up arts, majoring in indoor architecture. I graduated four years later. In 1980 I started oil painting and in 1986 I started classes with Aidin Aghdashloo. I passed the color pencil, watercolor, and crayon painting courses along with a course in oil painting. From 1987-1988 I started to paint scenes of war. Of course, the paintings were indirectly related to the ongoing war. I painted masked windows in lead and gray colors, symbolizing the depressed feeling of people during wartime, as the background.

petitions have always been my focal points, and you will see them reflected in some of my works.

Also fences, hedges, and other nature scenes have been recurrent themes in my paintings.

Q: What style of painting have you picked up?

A: I favor mostly the realistic approach in my works to mirror the realities of society.





Q: How do you define painting?

A: It is my feeling that a painting pictures what is in a painter's mind. The picture could either be abstract or concrete.

Q: How do you assess the present status of painting in Iran?

A: Generally speaking, art may be considered as much a part of a human being as his every breath. Art is in a human being's imagination, pulse. Today painting has found its place in all of man's activities. Art is everywhere as far as the eye can see.

Hence, I may say that the status of today's art is limited by forces of emptiness and destruction. However, like Phoenix, it has the capacity to rise from its ashes, soar on wings and be resurrected. In its entirety, it follows a pattern of intuition, growth, annihilation, and then it shows up again. Art is alive, art is moving ahead to reiterate the concept of humanity which means it is bound to and looks to the future, aiming for things sublime and the answers to man's basic needs.

If artists were to picture images of their race, clan and society, then works of art will lose their individuality.

Painting has not fully penetrated the hearts of common people. This is the challenge artists are faced with—to make the general public more familiar with art.

Q: What obstacles do you face in the field?

A: An artist's problems are no different from those of other members of society or even of the world as a whole. Some problems, however, are peculiar to the artist alone, like the problem on high prices of painting instruments and the scarcity of books on the field itself.

The painter as an artist should be up-to-date in his field. It's so hard for an Iranian painter to cope with this demand. On the other hand, there is a wide gap between the artist and the general public — and even the educated segment of society. They find it difficult to understand modern works, even the figurative ones. The public prefers to have a copy of an important work on its walls rather than the original one "because that does not match their indoor decoration."

Some painters, unfortunately, are led to copy valueless paintings to earn a living.

Q: What problems do you face in exhibiting your works?

A: I am pleased, indeed, to see so many art galleries established in Tehran. The move is encouraging young artists to exhibit their works with ease.

Q: What is your opinion about art universities?

A: I don't have much to say about the art universities because I've been away from universities for years. Sometimes, however, I see some works in art galleries which show a special pattern taught in the universities.

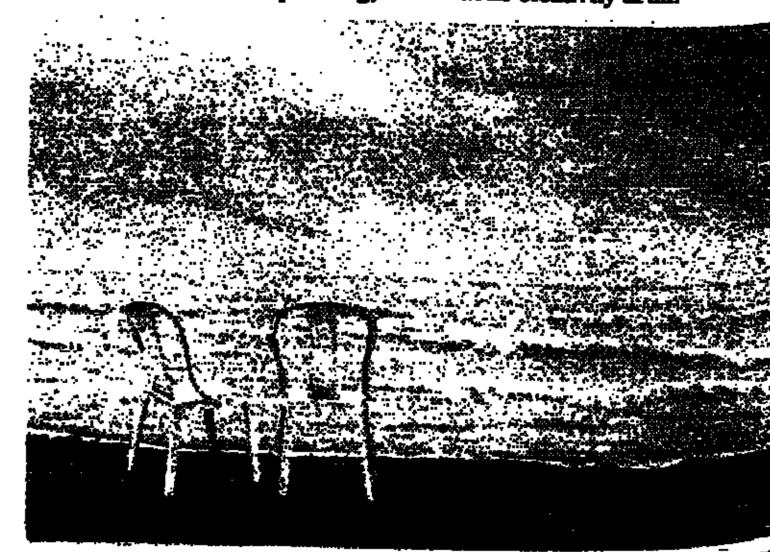
Q: What can you say of the painting classes?

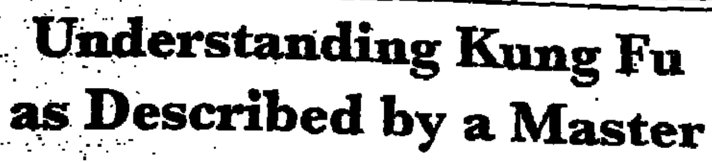
A: Some introductory guidelines are offered to art students in these classes. When the students learn the theories of painting, teachers leave them free to choose their style. The result is often satisfactory.





Still, in some classes, some teachers teach that aspect of painting they have acquired from their masters. That is why we see a generation of low-skilled students — with no creativity at all.





Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 11)



As Paee Yu-Peng believed, these methods were introduced as man's five features, each of which had to be appropriately trained and developed for uniting the soul and body. The 'tiger method' for strengthening bones, the 'dragon method' for purifying the soul, the 'hen method' for strengthening nerves, the 'panther method' for generating energy, and the 'snake method' for creating Chee-Eye or internal energy.

The best suggestion for the trainees who are willing to test these five historical methods is to get Robert Smith's invaluable book entitled 'The Mysteries of Shaolin Temple Boxing'. Unfortunately, it is a foreign source and not easily accessible. There were many reactions toward the plans and classifications of Paee Yu-Peng and Chooid-Yuan. Combining the best schools which trained both internal and external systems, they prepared the ground for development of Chinese martial arts. On the whole, they created a general framework from which most of their main modern systems were originated. Chooid is also the author of 'Tèn Commandments of Kung Fu' which has been briefly referred in the same book. These directions were considered as mysteries of morality for the Chinese kung fu players four centuries ago. Due to high development of martial arts in densely populated cities of East and West where skirmishes are frequently seen, it is necessary for inexperienced trainees to study these old rules in particular numbers 2 and 4.



When the Mongolians — a power martial tribe — attacked and defeated the Emperor Ming, the Chee-Ing dynasty appeared in 1662 and a new chapter was opened for the martial arts. The defeated proponents of Ming have frequently plotted conspiracies to topple abhorred Mongolians. Until the birth of Republic of China, both opponents and proponents of Ming under pseudonyms have secretly gathered to overthrow their hateful enemy for 250 years. The White Water Lily Society, 8-Diagram Sect (followers of divine principles), Earth and Paradise Society, 9-Building Sect, Tripartite Society were just some of hundreds of secret organizations which threatened Chee-Yang government that had oppressed them.

The Chinese and Buddhistic temples which were under pressures often unwillingly let the individuals — who fought for Emperor Ming's return — enter the apses. Undoubtedly, the Mongolians were forced to avenge the temples from approximately the early times of sovereignty. The first emperor of Chee-Ing dynasty, Kee Ang-Hesi, who faced the rebels and plunderers in the areas of western borders from the very first times of his ruling, called for the volunteers' help for fighting against the rebels who had defeated the Mongolian army. His demand was welcomed by Ming's former follower, Chang Kwan-Tat, who was a teacher in Shaolin Temple, Fiokeen region. Accompanied by 128 secluded persons of Shaolin, Chang went to the emperor. Less than three months, they defeated the rebels and even one of them was not injured. The emperor offered them many prizes and positions, but they meekly avoided receiving them and then returned to their temple.

Two of the emperor's ministers got angry at the Buddhists' great support. They also feared that their martial capabilities might be applied by Ming. So, they introduced Shaolin Temple as the center of violation and claimed that the priests just pretended to support Chee-Ing dynasty in order to conceal their conspiracies. In this way, they brought pressure to bear on Kee Ang-Hesi to issue the order for devastating Shaolin Temple as well as killing Chang Kwan-Tat. And he did so.

North African Giants Fight For Place in Final

JOHANNESBURG — The Mediterranean city of Alexandria will not be a place for faint hearts this weekend when the struggle for African Club supremacy intensifies.

There is no love lost between north African rivals Egypt and Tunisia in football and a stormy champions cup semi-final between CS Sfaxien and Zamalek has heightened the tension.

Sfaxien won the first leg 1-0 through a late penalty by Skander Souayah and the visitors had a player sent off while police battled to keep fans under control.

Zamalek play in Alexandria, which boasts a superb pitch but limited crowd space, because they are barred from using the 120,000-seat Nasser Stadium in Cairo following crowd trouble during a clash with another Tunisian team.

The Egyptians have an outstanding home record in the competition since making their debut 17 years ago, winning 26 matches and drawing two while scoring 70 goals and conceding only 11.

Sfaxien have bitter memories of a previous visit to Egypt as they succumbed 3-0 to eventual champions Zamalek in 1984, and this year they lost in Ethiopia and Senegal.

Shooting Stars to become the first african champions from nigeria, are favoured to win the other tie after coming from behind to hold former champions JS Kabylie in Algeria.

Cooch Amadu Shaibu, on loan from the national team to work with Liberian Boniface Doe, predicts stars will win by two goals at the 50,000-capacity Liberty Stadium in Ibadan.

His confidence is well founded as the Nigerians have won eight of nine champions cup ties at the ground with the latest victims being defending champions Orlando pirates from South Africa.

African Champions Cup

Semi-finals, second leg (first-leg score in brackets)

Shooting Stars, Nigeria v JS Kabylie, Algeria (1-1), Zamalek, Egypt v CS Sfaxien, Tunisia (0-1).

Matches to be played on October 26-27. (AFP)

Cullinan's Ton Against India Upstages Kirsten's World Record

JAIPUR, India — Gary Kirsten set a world record for the most one-day runs in a calendar year as his team piled up 249 for six in the Triangular Series match against India here on Wednesday.

Kirsten contributed just 29 but it was enough to surpass west Indian Brian Lara's tally of 1,349, made in 1993.

Cullinan who finished on 106 built the foundation for his side's total during a 113-run stand for the third wicket with skipper Hansie Cronje, who made 58.

The pair steered the South Africans away from trouble after the Indians, electing to field first in overcast conditions, had reduced them to 55 for two by the 12th over.

Cullinan, who came to bat in the second over, batted till the 48th to notch up his third one-day century, containing eight boundaries.

Sachin Tendulkar's Gamble to put the opposition in for the first time in the series appeared to work as the bowlers responded with the wickets of openers Kirsten and Andrew Hudson.

The pair, who put on 74 and 118 in South Africa's first two victories, were separated with the score of five when seamer Venkatesh Prasad trapped Hudson leg-before.

Kirsten had surpassed Lara's record by two runs when he swept leg-spinner Anil Kumble straight to Sunil Joshi at deep mid-wicket.

Kirsten hit six of his seven centuries in 1996, including a mammoth 188 in the World Cup, and looks set to build on that by the time the year runs out.

Cullinan and Cronje took the score to 168 for two by the 35th over, but the rest of the batting managed just 81 runs in the remaining 15 overs.

The Indians, who defeated Australia by two wickets in Monday's dramatic encounter, face a target of five runs an over to record their second win the tournament. (AFP)



STUTTGART, Germany (October 22): US player Michael Chang concentrates for a backhand shot to his Australian opponent Todd Woodbridge during their first round match at ATP tournament in Stuttgart. Chang won 6-3 and 6-2. (AFP PHOTO)

SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

SOCCER

LONDON: Jurgen Klinsmann has ended speculation surrounding his immediate future by admitting he is staying at Bayern Munich — with no plans to return to England. The German Captain and striker had been linked with a move back to the English Premiership following a disappointing start to the new bundesliga Season. But asked on BBC Radio whether making his name again in England was a real possibility, he said: "No, not at the moment.

WARSAW: The Polish Football Federation on Tuesday closed the Lech Poznan and Slask Wroclaw Stadiums indefinitely because of crowd trouble. Fans fought running battles with police after last weekend's matches. Fifty policemen were injured in fighting after Lech Poznan lost to Legia Warsaw last Saturday. The trouble was on a smaller scale at Wroclaw's match with Widzew Lodz

TENNIS

STUTTGART, Germany: Former French Open Champion Michael Chang claimed his first career win in Stuttgart from three attempts on Tuesday, beating Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-3, 6-2 to move into the third round of the ATP Indoor Tournament. Chang, beaten in the second round here a year ago after a bye and a loser a few years ago at the summer Claycourt event held in the city, joined fellow seeds Richard Krajicek and Jim Courier in safely qualifying.

NEW YORK: Gabriela Sabatini, whose efforts to reach the pinnacle in women's tennis were barred by four remarkable players, was expected to announce her retirement on Thursday at the age of 26. The Argentine, plagued by stomach muscle injury recently, has called a press conference at Madison Square Garden on Thursday. Sabatini, who missed the French Open and Wimbledon this year, has not won a tournament since January, 1995. Two years ago she was ranked third in the world behind Monica Seles and Steffi Graf but has now slipped to 29th.

CRICKET

SYDNEY: Australian Wicketkeeper and vice-captain Ian Healy has been forced home from the team's cricket tour of India because of injury, and will be replaced by Adam Gilchrist, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said Tuesday. Healy damaged a hamstring during Monday's limited overs series loss to india in Bangalore. ACB Chief Executive Office Graham Halbish said it was decided it would be in Healy's best interests to return home immediately with the five-test home series against the west indies to begin late next month.

ATHLETICS

OTTAWA: Canada's Donovan Bailey, the 100 metres world record holder, said here on Tuesday that his duel with 200 metres world record holder Michael Johnson of America should go ahead. Bailey, olympic and world 100 metres champion, said that if the race took place it would be next may over 150 metres. The Jamaican born Canadian sprinter said he hoped the match would take place in Canada, preferably in Toronto.

MOTOR RACING

SAO PAULO: Rubens Barrichello signed a three-year deal to drive for former world champion Jackie Stewart's new Formula One motor racing team on Tuesday. Barrichello, 24, will partner Denmark's Jan Magnussen at Stewart-Ford in next year's championship. "We said from the outset that we want a driver with formula one experience alongside a young, up-and-coming talent," stewart said. "Rubens brings the experience to complement the raw talent of Jan, but he is still young himself and can continue to develop his talent as he helps us build the team."

LISBON: Williams Renault new driver Heinz-Harald Frentzen of Germany drove the car for the first time on Tuesday but was left speechless by the experience.

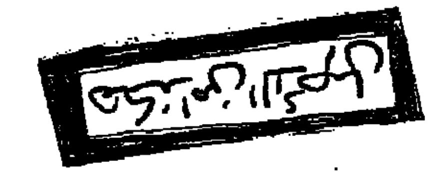
Frentzen, who replaced world champion Damon Hill when the Englishman was sacked by the team on September 1, did add pointedly that it was the first time he had sat in a proper Formula One car.

YACHTING

PERTH, Australia: Solo round-the-world Australian Yachtsman David Dicks will receive red carpet treatment when he returns home next month after his epic voyage in his 10-metre (33-foot) sloop, seaflight. Latest estimates are the 18-year-old will sail into Fremantle harbour, the major port in western Australia, on Sunday, November 17 at the end of his nine-month Odyssey. Dicks will become the youngest sailor to circumnavigate the globe alone and non-stop. He will receive an official welcome home from western Australian Premier Richard Court, himself a keen yachtsman, the Premier's department said Tuesday, as Dicks continued to make good progress in the Indian Ocean on the final leg of his trip.

CYCLING

PARIS: Miguel Indurain has been offered 10 million dollars by the once-professional cycling team to make another attempt to win a record Sixth Tour De France next year, the L'Equipe sports daily reported on Tuesday. The 32-year-old Spaniard, who has been with the Banesto team all his career, has been rumoured to be on the point of announcing his retirement since losing to Denmark's Bjarne Riis in this year's tour. The Banesto team, financed by a Spanish bank, have signed 1995 World Champion, Abraham Olano of Spain, but Indurain said after withdrawing from the tour of Spain in September.



Bomb Blast in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, India—A car bomb in the capital of insurgency wracked Kashmir state killed two police officers Wednesday, news agencies reported.

(Contd from Pg.1)

PRESIDENT...

cation in the region.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani said that Iran pays special attention to strengthening ties with India and there are ample grounds for cooperation between the two countries.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, the Indian vice president stressed that through cooperation, Iran and India would be able to confront those powers who wish to impose their policies on others.

Narayanan further appreciated Iran's relentless efforts in creating unity among different factions in war-torn Afghanistan.

Touching on Irano-Indian common links, the Iranian Majlis speaker emphasized Tehran-Delhi joint decision-making on different regional and international issues.

Nateq Nouri further called for the expansion of parliamentary relations between the two countries, saying that the parliaments can prepare the ground for governments to boost ties in every possible field.

Referring to the recent crisis in Afghanistan, Nateq Nouri condemned meddling of foreign powers in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Nateq Nouri called Iran and India the two important members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), emphasizing that the two countries should help strengthen the movement.

(Contd from Pg.1)

RUSSIA...

Moscow says a Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty agreed in May between the 16 NATO countries and 14 former Warsaw Pact nations should be revised before any eastern European nations join NATO.

Russia has also asked the Western alliance for formal security guarantees before it proceeds with enlargement.

Earlier this month NATO chief Javier Solana rejected Russian demands for a prior agreement. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MAJLIS...

port the agricultural sector and would leave no stone unturned for the development of agriculture in the country.

Referring to the remarkable achievements in the agricultural sector during the First Five-Year Development Plan, Shoja' expressed hope that there would be greater success in this field during the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

He emphasized that mechanizing agriculture in rural areas, as well as further research and study in this field would pave the way for further development and would enable the country to compete more effectively with other countries offering their agricultural products in the international market.

Touching on Iran's high potential in agriculture, Shoja' underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran can be a successful regional country in non-oil exports.

Providing farms with sufficient water supply is one of the main problems in the field of agriculture, he said, adding that by juxtaposition of lands, using up-to-date agricultural techniques, building more dams, the country would be able to overcome this problem.

We should make optimum use of our facilities and potentials. This will enable us to achieve our goals and create more jobs for the unemployed in the agricultural sector, Shoja' added.

As for the sudden increase in the price of agricultural products, he reiterated that there should be a balance between the cultivation and distribution of agricultural products and that there should be close cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the farmers in order to prevent such sudden increases.

As for possible solutions to reduce the prices of agricultural products, he said that the farmers should have no financial problems, should be fully supported, and should be provided with needed facilities. He reiterated that the government should allocate more subsidies to the agricultural sector.

He mentioned that after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, as the Founder of the Islamic Revolution, the Late Imam Khomeini said, the agricultural sector is one of the pivotal factors in the country's independence. He said that Iraq's aggression against Iran hampered all efforts made for the country's self-sufficiency in agriculture at the time.

He said that after the end of the Iraqi-imposed war and by the beginning of the First Five-Year Development Plan, the government paid due attention to agriculture; the agricultural sector had a growth of 13 percent more than what was predicted during the First-Five Year Development Plan.

Referring to the remarkable measures taken since the beginning of the Second Five-Year Development Plan, Shoja' pointed out that, through adopting well-formulated programs, the country will achieve self-sufficiency in this sector.

Shoja' said that currently, 42 to 43 percent of the rural population is active in the agricultural sector and that this sector employs 43 percent of the country's workers.

On problems which exist for the employment of university graduates in the field of agriculture, and the inability of the public sector to attract all the graduates, Shoja' said, "The university graduates should be attracted by the private sector, too."

The private sector should be obliged by the Ministry of Agriculture to employ graduates in agriculture. No permission should be issued by the ministry for the establishment of agriculture-related companies and cooperatives, provided they allow university graduates to monitor their plans and projects.

(Contd from Pg.1)

ESCAP...

Pointing to the paucity of resources and the pressing demands placed on the meagre resources of governments by various competing demands of their respective countries, the Indian minister said that "It has not been possible for governments to make available all the resources that the infrastructure sectors call for, and as a result infrastructure has remained neglected."

The ministerial conference aims to highlight the urgent infrastructure needs of countries in the region and seeks to find ways and means to address those needs. Further, it aims to assist member countries achieve a level of infrastructure facilities commensurate to their development objectives and priorities by enhancing their national capabilities in planning and formulating the appropriate policies conducive to efficiency in implementation and delivery of infrastructure projects and related management.

It is to be noted that this year winds up the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1984 and adjusted to cover the period 1992-1996, as a means of encouraging regional infrastructure development.

The ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure which starts on Monday is to launch the New Delhi Action Plan, a plan that would detail the specific infrastructure needs and priorities of ESCAP members and associate members, and suggest a program of action for its implementation at the country and regional levels in a bid to achieve desired objectives.

"Often in our anxiety to create assets and facilities...to accelerate growth, we tend to forget that creation of physical assets, including infrastructure facilities, can wreck havoc on the environment and adversely affect the lives of people," the minister said, emphasizing the need to have a kind of national or regional development that is sustainable by the environment.

Lauding the interest shown by the private sector on infrastructure development by convening the World Infrastructure Forum, 1996, October 30-31, 1996, the minister said that governments, in their attempt to accelerate development, had resorted to direct involvement in the industry and infrastructure sectors of their respective countries and used public investment programs as a tool to promote growth with emphasis on a more equitable distribution of income and wealth.

The four-day meeting of hundreds of delegates from the Asia-Pacific region will review developments in infrastructure and tourism intended to lay the groundwork for the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on Infrastructure by their ministers on Tuesday, October 29, 1996.

ESCAP Executive Secretary, Adrianus Mooy, in a message to the meeting, stressed that economic growth is an important factor in development and the improvement of the quality of life of people. He said the provision of adequate and reliable infrastructure services in all areas—transport, electric power, telecommunications, water supply and waste disposal are crucial to economic growth.

He further pointed to the supply of infrastructure facilities in the nature of roads, health and educational facilities in rural areas as contributing directly to the alleviation of poverty.

In the last decade, his message noted, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have attained exceptionally high rates of economic growth.

He said their years of rapid growth have also served to critically strain their existing infrastructure, while insufficiency thereof has been found to significantly hinder the expansion of trade and investment. In an attempt to provide the needed infrastructure, governments in the region are placing more emphasis on the private sector for development and/or efficient use of existing infrastructure, the secretary-general said.

Some forty ministers are expected to attend the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure which will adopt the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1991-2006), a plan that will embody proposals for action at the country and regional level.

(Contd from Pg.1)

IRAN...

added that experience has shown that the regional countries especially the Islamic Republic has been more successful in this connection.

Turning to the Turkish proposal on joint efforts with Iran to broker peace between the Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, he said Tehran accepted the offer because Iran and Turkey are neighbors of Iraq and have their own Kurdish communities.

In response to another question on Saddam Hussein's message to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran, he said the Iraqi government is willing to resolve the existing problems between the two countries and establish closer ties with Iran. The Islamic Republic favors settlement of problems on the basis of reciprocal good will.

Asked about the Tuesday visit to Tehran of the special envoy of the Pakistani prime minister, Velayati said the main axis of Zafar Helali's discussions was developments in Afghanistan.

Tehran believes that all ethnic and religious groups should have a share in the administration of Afghanistan. Military actions and foreign intervention will further complicate and deteriorate the situation in Afghanistan.

Iran's views were relayed to Pakistan, said Velayati. "They (Islamabad) said that they share our stances on the issue," he told the reporters.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani as the legal representative in Afghanistan and the emergence of a group of rebels, which is being supported by certain countries, does not take away its legitimacy.

He added that Iran will host a conference on Afghanistan in a near future with participation of various regional countries to work out a formula for settlement of the Afghan problem.

Asked to comment on the November presidential elections in the U.S., he said, "both parties (Republicans, Democrats) have demonstrated their stance towards the Islamic Revolution of Iran over the years. Therefore, it makes no difference to Iran whichever party wins in the elections." (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg.1)

RUSSIAN...

came the first foreign leader to address the elected Palestinian legislature.

The two men were due to lunch together before visiting the site of a planned port to be built with French help in Gaza City and inaugurating a Charles de Gaulle street in the city center.

Hundreds of Palestinians, mostly uniformed schoolchildren, turned out to greet Chirac, who took on a near hero status for Palestinians by repeatedly confronting Israeli authorities over the Palestinian question during a visit to the Zionist state on Monday and Tuesday.

In Ramallah, where thousands of cheering residents hailed the French president, Chirac called on Palestinians to renounce violence against Israel as the best way to further their effort to obtain an independent state.

During his speech to the Legislative Council, Chirac was repeatedly interrupted by applause and standing ovations, notably when he spoke against Israel's annexation of disputed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Meanwhile, the United States warned Europe Tuesday not to meddle in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, saying it was unwise to try to create a "mini-United Nations" in the Middle East.

Israel and the Palestinians have decided that the United States would be "the sole country" present at the talks that began earlier this month, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"You don't want to create a mini-United Nations in Taba and Eilat," Burns said, referring to the Egyptian and Israeli towns that have served as venues for negotiations.

"You want to have the two parties and the one indispensable country that has been there for 25, 30 years as the active intermediary," he said.

The talks attended by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross were called to try to implement a key provision of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords that calls for a redeployment of the Israeli Army from the West Bank town of Al-Khalil, which is predominantly populated by Arabs.

The U.S. warning to Europe came as Britain announced that Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind will travel to the Middle East on November 3-6 and as French President Jacques Chirac was making a high-profile visit to Israel and the Palestine.

Fueling U.S.-European rivalries over Mideast diplomacy, Secretary of State Warren Christopher wrote a letter to French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette prior to Chirac's trip to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, Burns said.

The spokesman declined to disclose the content of letter but went on to express Washington's view that the United States is the only country that should be involved in the current round of Israeli-Palestinian talks.

A similar letter was sent to Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring as the current chairman of the 15-member European Union, Burns said.

Welcoming stepped up involvement from the Europeans in the Middle East, the State Department said the European Union can play a "positive and active role in the Middle East."

Burns cited EU financial assistance to the Palestinians as a contribution that was particularly welcomed.

But he said that the "narrow negotiations" on the thorny issue of Al-Khalil involved Israel, the Palestinians and the United States exclusively.

"The Palestinians and the Israelis have chosen the United States, and only the United States, for these talks. It's their decision," he said.

(Contd from Pg.1)

IRAQI...

"We expect a formal announcement simultaneously by the two sides later today," one source told AFP.

The leaders of the warring Iraqi Kurdish groups in northern Iraq have agreed in principle to a cease-fire, U.S. special envoy Robert Pelletreau announced Wednesday.

Speaking at a news conference here prior to his departure for Washington, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had agreed in principle to observe an immediate truce.

"Each side has accepted the principle of a cease-fire provided that the other does as well," Pelletreau said.

"The governments of Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom now call on each side to implement this cease-fire in place beginning immediately.

"This means that each side will take defensive positions and not initiate firing or hostilities," he said.

The U.S. envoy held talks in the Turkish border town of Silopi on Monday with KDP leader Massud Barzani and met Tuesday in Ankara with the PUK's Jalal Talabani in a bid to end the latest fighting in northern Iraq.

The violence began when the KDP seized the Kurdish capital Arbil on August 31 with Baghdad's help.

Pelletreau recalled that the two sides signed a cease-fire agreement in Drogheda, Ireland, in August 1995 to end a power struggle which first erupted a year earlier and had cost 2,000 lives.

He said Ankara, Washington and London "call on the KDP and PUK, in accordance with the Drogheda Agreement, to maintain this cease-fire and strive to make it permanent, to cease media attacks on each other, and to release detainees captured during the fighting.

(Contd from Pg.1)

DOSTAM'S...

The warning came hours after a spokesman for the ex-regime said Dostam's forces had joined troops of the ousted government's military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood in attacking the Taleban north of Kabul.

Muttaqi told journalists however that he did know whether Dostam's men had actively entered the latest battle for Kabul by fighting alongside the advancing ex-government troops to the north of the city.

"I have no exact information as to whether Dostam has joined the attack or not, but in the past (Dostam) has ruled out his joining in any attack against us." (AFP)



WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran:

Max. temp. 25°C
Min. temp. 15°C

Clear to Partly Cloudy with dust and wind

Warmest Point:
Gonbad-e Kavoos 36°C

Coldest Point:
Babak -2°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	32	Vienna	10
Istanbul	9	Moscow	9
Rome	21	Madrid	12
Athens	18	Abu Dhabi	32
London	18	Karachi	33
Paris	17	New Delhi	25
Frankfurt	10	Kuwait	33

Global Arrogance Fearing Worldwide Spread of Islam

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri received here on Wednesday the heads of delegations from the Islamic countries attending the second session of the planning committee for the formation of an Islamic parliamentary union. The session was held in Tehran from Oct. 22-23.

Addressing the audience, the hojjatoleslam stressed that, today, there is a growing trend toward democracy and political participation of people in deciding their own fate. He considered the formation of assemblies as the best manifestation of people's exercising their political will.

Nateq Nouri went on to say that, in view of their many commonalities, the Islamic countries should take steps to remove the problems facing the Muslim world through unity and formation of an Islamic parliamentary union.

The speaker further alluded to the guidelines provided by the Qoran on the formation of a unified Muslim nation and described discord and division among Islamic countries as the major factors causing their lack of development and prosperity.

Today, the arrogant powers massacre the innocent people in many Islamic countries such as Palestine, Lebanon, and Afghanistan for their religious beliefs, which indicates that the global arrogance fears the spread of Islam in the world," Majlis speaker reiterated, adding that the Muslims can hinder such bloodshed by getting united.

In conclusion, the hojjatoleslam expressed satisfaction with the measures taken to establish the Islamic parliamentary union and hoped that the attempts to this end would prove successful.

Death Toll Climbs to 118 in Vietnam

HANOI -- Flooding in southern Vietnam's Mekong delta has killed 118 people, most of them children, and left more than half a million others short of food, relief workers said on Tuesday. (Reuter)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

VAEZI...

had plans to launch a campaign in Europe and in the world to rouse universal attention to the plight of the women in that country.

She said she would solicit the involvement of the United Nations Security Council and the European Union for that purpose to ensure that violence would come to an end in Afghanistan and give its place to peaceful talks between rival groups.

The Iranian and Italian officials also expressed identical feelings in relation to the current problem in northern Iraq hoping that clashes in that part of Iraq would shortly come to a halt.

Toia and Mahmoud Vaezi also agreed that Iran and Italy would do better to exchange delegations more often with a view to diversify their present relations. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg.1)

UNION...

ion would enjoy the membership of all OIC member states.

Asked to comment on the level of parliamentary relations between Sudan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, he called the relations satisfactory, adding that the two Muslim nations have set up a joint parliamentary association to expand their ties in this regard.

Alsarrag said that 10 members of Sudan's National Assembly and 10 members of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) comprise the membership of the association.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that the two countries have thus far exchanged several parliamentary delegations and a high-ranking parliamentary delegation, headed by former speaker of Sudan's National Assembly, visited Iran in 1994.

Alsarrag added that inter-parliamentary relations between Iran and Sudan pave the way for the two countries to expand their relations in all other possible fields.

In conclusion, the head of Sudan's Foreign Parliamentary Relations Commission expressed his appreciation for the Majlis' contribution in holding the planning committee meeting.

Russian, Italian Deputy FMs Call On Velayati

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister for Security and Disarmament Affairs, Georgy Mamedov here on Wednesday called for expansion of Tehran-Moscow cooperation to settle the regional problems.

He made the call in a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Expressing satisfaction over bilateral relations, he said that the current situation enables the two countries to start a new phase of cooperation and strengthen their long-term cooperation.

He called the ongoing meeting of deputy foreign ministers of Caspian Sea Littoral States important, saying that the meeting paves the ground for the foreign ministerial meeting to be held in Ashkhabad in the near future.

Mamedov further emphasized on the necessity of determination of the Caspian Sea's legal regime which can prevents foreign powers of having presence in the region and paves the way for proper utilization of the Caspian Sea resources.

Meanwhile the Iranian Foreign minister said that expansion of ties between Iran and Russia at regional and international levels would bring peace and stability in the region and the world.

The two sides also exchanged views on different subjects as the Middle East, North of Iraq, Afghanistan and the peace process in Tajikistan.

In another development here Wednesday the Italian Deputy Foreign Minister, Patricia Toia, conferred with Velayati. She termed Italy's stance in the European Union towards Iran as positive and said that there are ample grounds of cooperation in political, cultural, scientific and economic fields.

The Italian deputy foreign minister said that her country is eager to strengthen cultural ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to Iran's pivotal role in the region, Toia expressed Rome's support for Iran's peaceful solutions for the crisis in Afghanistan.

In a separate meeting on Wednesday between the Italian senior diplomat and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi, a memorandum of understanding was signed for mutual cooperation in the fields of science, culture and sports.

The agreement consisting of 12 chapters and 69 articles is valid until 1999 and is extendable beyond that date if agreed upon by the two sides.

Vaezi said that the agreement envisages expansion of mutual relations and cooperation in such areas as science, culture, arts, sports, tourism, cultural heritage, exchange of scholarships and promotion of Persian and Italian languages.

Toia, for her part, urged for implementation of the MOU and assured that her country will precisely follow up the provisions of the agreement.

FALLAHIAN:

Soundness of Iran's Stance on Mideast Peace Manifested

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Iranian Information Minister Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian said in Orumieh, West Azarbaijan Province, on Tuesday that the soundness of the stance taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Mideast peace process is manifested by the present deadlock in the peace talks.

He made the statement while addressing a gathering of local people and government officials at the local administrative office. He added that the U.S., despite applying economic sanctions against Iran and making every effort to isolate this country in the international scene, has failed to materialize its hostile objectives.

The information minister underscored the supremacy of Islamic culture and civilization and further noted that the strong belief and determination of the Muslim Iranian people, especially the youth, has laid the foundation for the emergence of a superior Islamic power.

Ceremonies to Be Held to Commemorate Shaqaqi's Martyrdom

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - On the eve of the first martyrdom anniversary of Fathi Shaqaqi, the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council issued a statement Wednesday calling on the people to commemorate him.

The statement added that special ceremonies will be held next Saturday here at the Ark Mosque to commemorate Shaqaqi.

Martyrdom of Shaqaqi indicates the peak of the Zionists' desperation in confronting with the Intifada, the statement said.

The statement further described Fathi Shaqaqi's martyrdom as a turning point in the struggle of the Palestinian people and said that the Muslim people of Iran will pledge allegiance to the ideals of the father of the Islamic Revolution, the Late Imam Khomeini, and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, in defending the Palestinian Intifada.

Turkey Says It Will Open Border Gate With Armenia

ANKARA -- Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said Wednesday that Turkey would open a border gate with Armenia, with which Ankara has no diplomatic ties.

"After overcoming a few difficulties we will definitely open the eastern gate of Akyaka (with Armenia)." Ciller told deputies from her conservative True Path Party. (AP)

Speaker: Social Prosperity Rests on Youth

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN--Addressing an audience at a ceremony commemorating Martyr Fahmideh and other martyred students, Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri stressed, "We should move towards expansion of the Basiji culture and preservation of the principles and values of the Islamic Revolution more steadfastly than before.

The speaker described Martyr Fahmideh as a unique example in history. He said that the society's prosperity rests on investment on the younger generation. The holy prophet of Islam paid great heed to young adults.

He cautioned the youth against the attempts of hegemonistic powers to engage their attention with petty and wayward allurements.

Referring to Martyr Fahmideh, the 13 year old student, Nateq Nouri said, Martyr Fahmideh and other young Basiji commanders performed great deeds in defense of Islam, changing the outcome of the war in favor of Iran.

"Such mentality is incomprehensible to those not acquainted with Islamic culture," said the speaker.

He stressed that if Imam Khomeini had not heeded the youth and the Hezbollahi forces, the fate of the revolution and the war would have been far different.

"These forces now have a direct connection with the Leader and are not prepared to give this connection up for anything," the speaker pointed out.

Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri said that the sworn enemies of Islamic Iran consider Hezbollahi mentality a threat to them and thus attempt to sever the relation of the forces of Hezbollah (Party of God) with the Velayat-e-Faqih (Governance of the Supreme Muslim Jurisprudent).

The Majlis speaker stressed that if Iran progresses in development programs, but disregards the Basiji spirit, the country will become vulnerable.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

2ND ...

With correct planning, while taking into consideration the vital role of this sea and with spirit of cooperation of the littoral states, everyone's fair shares in legal exploitation of resources of the sea can be properly determined, Velayati noted.

"We believe that holding the meeting of deputy foreign ministers in Moscow and the follow up meeting in Tehran, and ultimately the foreign ministerial meeting in Ashkhabad reaffirms the conviction of the five littoral states that exploitation of this sea should be based on their full understanding and it is imperative for the five countries to prepare the legal frame for this purpose," he said.

Elaborating on the importance of determination of the Caspian Sea's legal regime, he stated that it is imperative that the littoral states of the Caspian sea work together to draw up appropriate legal regime for setting the scopes and limits of the sovereignty of states for rich resources of this vast body of water including biological, sea bed and under sea bed resources.

The Caspian Sea is unique not only for its mineral reserves but also for its geopolitical location, mineral and marine resources as well as the vulnerability of its environment.

Therefore, the resumption of oil activities has threatened the environmental balance in this sea. Such activities have originated various forms of pollution in the sea. Deputy foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation currently are here to attend the meeting.

Thousands of Anti-Abortion Protestors March Through Warsaw

WARSAW -- Tens of thousands of anti-abortion protestors, including nuns, monks and children, marched through Warsaw on Wednesday a day before a knife-edge vote on liberalizing the country's draconian abortion laws.

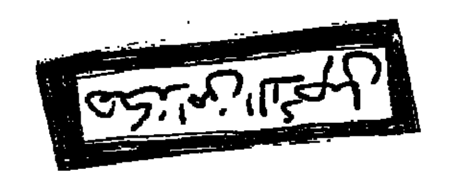
The protest, which police said brought together 25,000 demonstrators, while the organizers said they numbered 40,000, paralyzed the center of the Polish capital and caused massive traffic jams.

Demonstrators waved Polish flags and carried banners bearing the words "Down With the Extermination of the Polish," "Solidarity With Children Before Birth," "Yes to Life, No to Death," as well as "Down With the Neo-Hitlerian Law."

The latter was a reference to the Nazi decision to authorize abortion for the Poles while outlawing it for Germans.

Wednesday's march followed a large-scale mass celebrated by the archbishop of Warsaw Cardinal Josef Glemp and almost all Poland's bishops.

The ever-growing number of protestors was later to congregate in front of the Parliament building, where a few dozen pro-abortion campaigners were already assembled (AP)



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Lioness Takes Catnap in Chilean Family's Bed

SANTIAGO — An African lioness, who escaped from a traveling circus in the Chilean town of El Melon Tuesday, opted to lie down on the lam in a terrified family's bedroom for an extended catnap.

She was awakened and captured by her keepers with the help of Chilean police.

"Sussy" was able to flee when one of her keepers forgot to close the door to her cage after retrieving some lion cubs, said the owner of the traveling circus. (AFP)

African Monkey Behind Bars

NICE, France — An African she-monkey has been taken into custody and her owner fined 7,000 francs ($1,400) after the animal was imported illegally into France.

But a vet has appealed over Rose-Marie, an 18-month-old monkey from Cape Verde, saying her health would be at risk if she remains behind bars.

Dr. Yves Firmin, who has been looking after Rose-Marie since her arrival in France last year, said she could die within days. "This decision is scandalous. We can only hope for a presidential pardon," he said. (AFP)

Norway's Government to Resign on Friday

OSLO — Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland unexpectedly announced on Wednesday her minority Labour government would resign on Friday.

She told Parliament she would submit its resignation to the king.

"We are heading for a new parliamentary election and a new four-year legislature," Brundtland told Parliament. "I feel it is proper that the government's leadership and setup be clarified well ahead of the election."

"In light of this background I have told the king that I will submit my resignation at a cabinet session on Friday," she said.

There had been speculation that Brundtland might resign well before general elections in September 1997 to seek office at the United Nations or another international body.

Brundtland will be succeeded in office on Friday by Thorbjoern Jagland, chairman of the ruling Labour Party, the prime minister's office said.

"She will be succeeded as head of the Norwegian Labour government by the incumbent leader of the Norwegian Labour Party, Thorbjoern Jagland," a statement said.

Brundtland, 57, earlier announced she would submit her resignation on Friday because she felt it was proper that the government's leadership and setup be clarified well ahead of the election in September 1997.

The premier said last December that Jagland was her designated successor, but the transfer of power had not been expected to come so early. (Reuter)

BRUNDTLAND

More Than 100 Die in South Sudan Floods

KHARTOUM — Recent floods in southern Sudan have killed 102 people and displaced more than 8,000 others, the independent daily *Alwan* reported on Wednesday.

It quoted John Dor, minister of state in the federal government, as saying that 52 people died in the Bor area while 50 others were killed by the floods in Tonj, southern Sudan.

More than 8,000 others were made homeless in Wau, the capital of Bahral Ghazal state in south Sudan, the daily said. (AFP)

Cargo Plane Crashes in Downtown Ecuador City

QUITO, Ecuador — A cargo plane slammed into the bell tower of a church shortly after taking off from a Pacific port city, bursting into flames and raining fiery debris on dozens of homes. At least 23 people died, officials and radio reports said Wednesday.

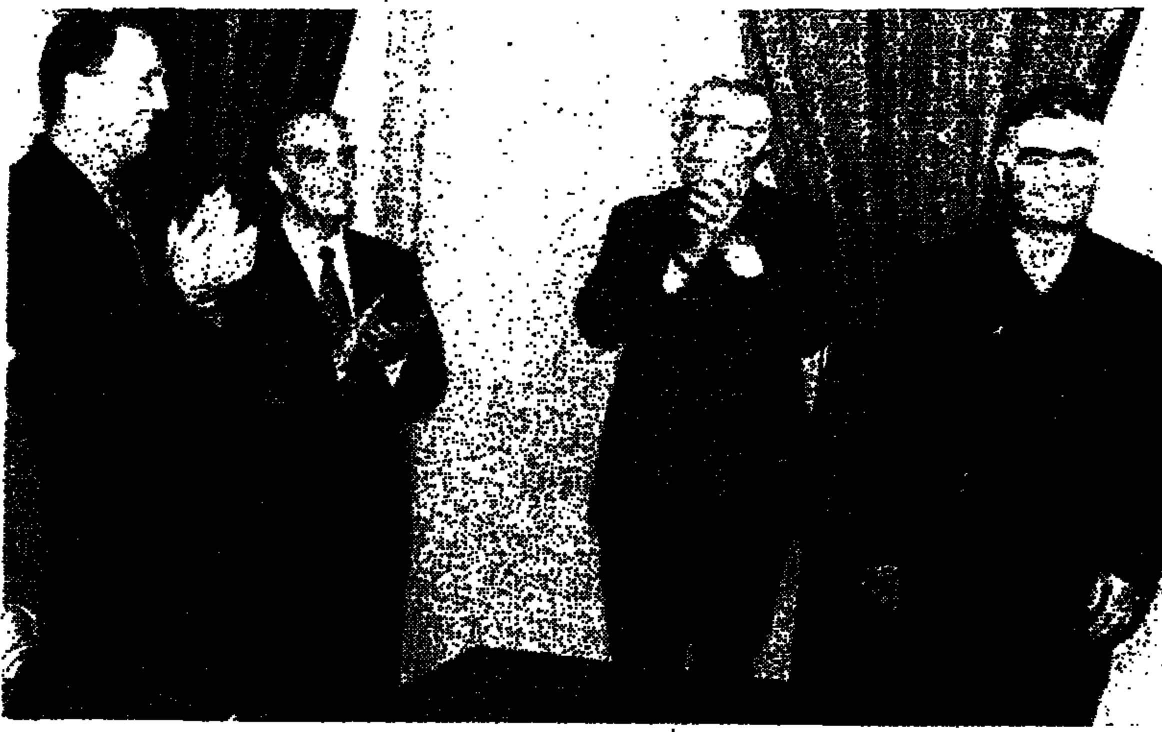
The Boeing 707 bound for Miami with a cargo of frozen fish hit the bell tower of La Dolorosa - the "Grieving Virgin" - Roman Catholic church in the city of Manta on Tuesday night, the reports said.

Radio reports said all three crew members, believed to be Americans, were killed. A correspondent on the scene for Radio Quito said the bodies of 20 residents were in the town morgue, burned to death. A priest at the church was among the dead.

At least 20 people were hospitalized with "critical burns," said Leonardo Cedeno, head of the hospital in Manta, a Pacific coast city of 150,000 residents about 160 miles (250 kms) southwest of Quito. (AP)

Serb Leader Signs Away Nationalist War Aims





SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Oct. 22): Momcilo Krajisnik (R), the Serb member of Bosnia's collective presidency, is applauded by Bosnian presidency chairman Alija Izetbegovic (2nd L), U.S. envoy John Kornblum (2nd R) and Bosnian Croat presidency member Kresimir Zubak (L) at their meeting at Sarajevo's National Museum. Krajisnik signed an oath of loyalty to Bosnian statehood, an act he had refused to carry out earlier this month at an inaugural ceremony in Sarajevo. (AFP PHOTO)

SARAJEVO — The Serb member of Bosnia's new collective presidency has signed an oath of loyalty to the state he and fellow hardline nationalists vowed never to recognize.

Momcilo Krajisnik reluctantly bowed to international pressure on Tuesday evening and put his signature to the "solemn declaration", pledging to support Bosnian statehood and the U.S.-brokered peace agreement.

After signing the oath, Krajisnik shook hands with his former foes, the Muslim chairman of the presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, and Croat member Kresimir Zubak.

It was a moment without fanfare or ceremony, but for many Sarajevans it symbolized the end of the Bosnian conflict that raged from 1992 to 1995.

Krajisnik was a powerful figure in the Serb leadership which sought to carve out a separate state in Bosnia and divide the capital Sarajevo into two cities, one Serb and one Muslim. (Reuter)

Suu Kyi Aide Reported Arrested

RANGOON, Burma — A leading member of Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy movement was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of playing a role in planning the largest protest by university students in several years.

A senior military officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Kyi Maung, vice chairman of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, had been taken into custody following the student demonstration against police brutality.

Kyi Maung, one of the democracy movement's top three leaders along with Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, was detained for interrogation, the officer said. (AP)

3,000 More Refugees Join Exodus

NAIROBI — Nearly 30,000 refugees from a camp in the Bukavu region of eastern Zaire have joined a huge exodus of 250,000 people fleeing fighting further south, UN refugee agency officials said Wednesday.

They quit the Nyangezi camp in a wave of panic after the arrival of some 3,000 refugees fleeing fighting between ethnic Tutsis and Zairean troops in the Uvira region.

In Nairobi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) put the number of displaced persons in the Bukavu region now at about 100,000, but that does not appear to include refugees already in camps there.

UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg, speaking from the Rwandan capital Kigali, said some 100,000 people had crossed into the southern Bukavu region by late Tuesday and were heading north and westward. (AFP)

Four Teenaged Sisters Net $10,000 in Spanish Bank Heist

MIRANDA DE EBRO, Spain — Four Spanish sisters aged under 14 were in custody Wednesday after stealing 1.3 million pesetas ($10,000 dollars) in a bank heist, judicial sources said.

The girls, the youngest of whom was just nine years old, were part of an international crime gang, the High Court of Castille and Leon said.

The four sisters had entered a bank in this town near Burgos in northern Spain and asked a clerk to change a 10,000-peseta note into smaller bills. When the notes were handed over, they began protesting that the clerk had short-changed them.

The clerk went away to ask for advice and the nine-year-old raided the cashdesk and made off with the money.

The sisters were not in possession of the money when they were arrested and, according to police, they may have handed it to an adult waiting for them outside the bank. It has still not been recovered.

Jose Luis Garcia Ancos, prosecutor of the Castille and Leon High Court, said it was "necessary to determine who is behind this gang, which has already been active in other countries and which appears to have branches in Belgium and France."

Police said that the sisters, who come from a gypsy family, had attempted a similar heist in another bank in the area, but gave no details. (AFP)



MALIBU, CA, United States (Oct. 22): Firefighters douse flames in the canyons of Malibu, CA, on the second day of a wildfire which has burned nearly 1,400 acres. Several major wildfires, driven by the strong, seasonal Santa Anaa winds, have burned over a hundred homes throughout Southern California. (AFP PHOTO)

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS



MIDDLEWICH, England — Five people, including Chelsea Football Club vice-chairman, Matthew Harding, were killed when a helicopter returning fans from a football match in Chelsea late Tuesday night crashed and burned near here, police said Wednesday.

DAR ES SALAAM - A bush fire swept through a village in southern Tanzania, killing 10 people including a two-year-old baby.

HONG KONG - Thousands of boatpeople have staged protests in Hong Kong against plans to remove inmates from a detention camp on Thursday and then repatriate them by force to Vietnam.

NEW DELHI - Mail and telephone services across India were disrupted Wednesday as around one million postal and telecoms workers began an indefinite strike on the eve of a national labor conference.

VIENNA - Eight people died after a Slovakian barge sank after colliding with a dam on the Danube in Vienna.

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani opposition Wednesday called for a nationwide strike at the weekend to protest against "disastrous" new taxes imposed by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

BELFAST - The Loyalist Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) and Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) said they had asked to meet with Prime Minister John Major to discuss multi-party peace talks and the threat of more Irish Republican Army violence.

TORONTO - The Canadian Auto Workers Union on Tuesday reached an agreement with General Motors Corp. to end a crippling 19-day strike by 26,000 workers that also idled 20,000 workers in the United States and Mexico.

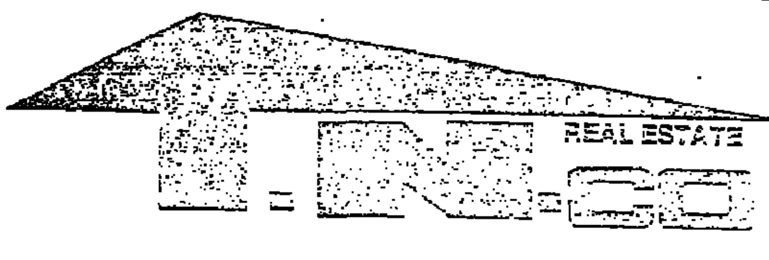






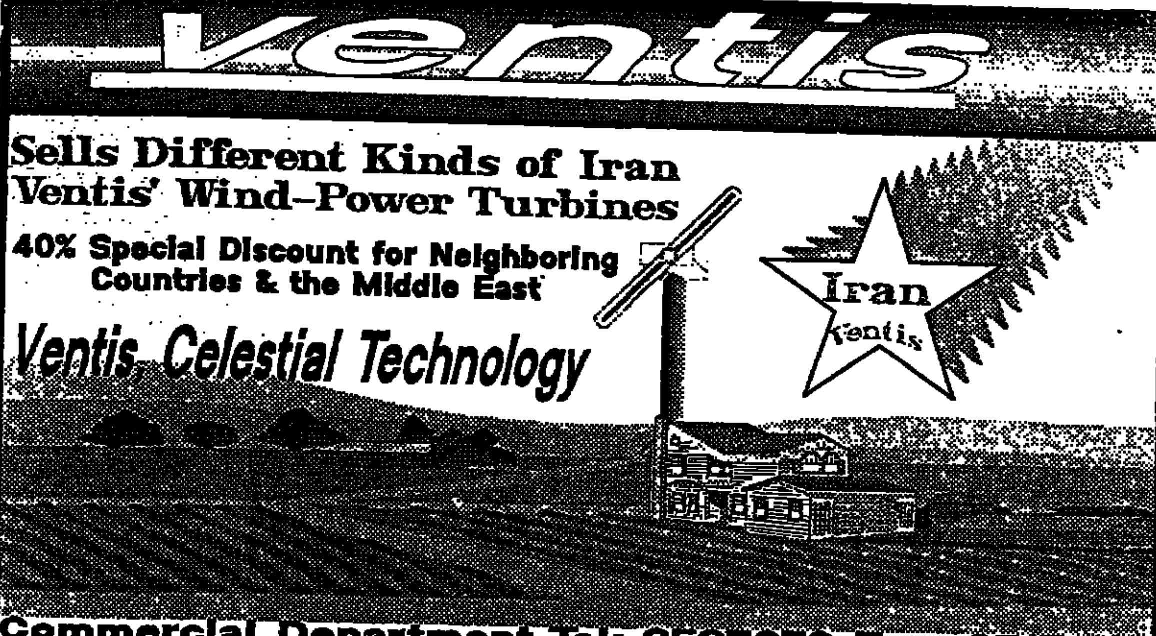
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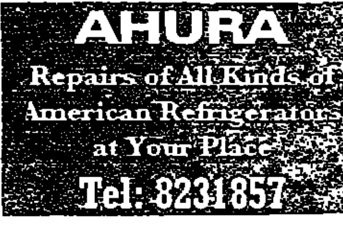
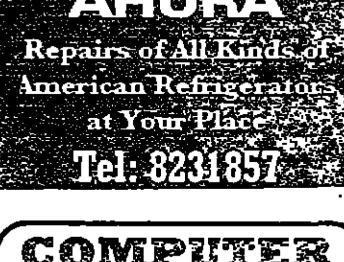


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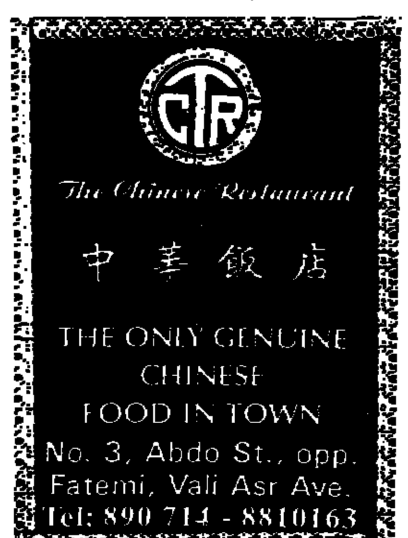
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Japanese Fishermen Free Trapped Dolphins After Protest

TOKYO – Japanese fishermen on Wednesday released 200 of some 275 dolphins captured by them and held since last week in a port in Sizuoka, southeast of Tokyo, keeping the rest to sell as food, an official said.

The release came after a Tokyo-based animal rights group issued a protest over the capture of the dolphins.

A member of the Dolphine and Whale Action Network told the Asahi Shimbun that the group suspected the dolphins were not being fed while they were enclosed.

The fishermen are allowed to catch an annual quota of 75 dolphins, an official said, but rounded up too many as they were often difficult to control when they swam in a large school.

Of the 75 which were not released 68 were to be sold as food, while the remainder went to aquaria.

Earlier this month fishermen in Taiji, western Japan, forced some 100 small whales onto beaches before killing them, the first catch of the season. The town has a catch quota of 2,380 whales per season.

(AFP)

Mitterrand's Doctor to Pay Damages Over Book

PARIS -- A Paris court on Wednesday ordered Francois Mitterrand's doctor to pay 340,000 francs ($68,000) in damages to the late French president's relatives for invasion of privacy in a book disclosing details of his fatal cancer.

Dr Claude Gubler had already been sentenced to a four-month suspended jail term for breaching medical secrecy by revealing in a book that Mitterrand misled the French people for over a decade about the cancer which finally killed him.

The court also upheld an existing ban on the book, Le Grand Secret (The Big Secret). Published a week after Mitterrand died in January, and eight months after he left office, the book was banned within 24 hours after its first print run of 40,000 copies had sold out.

The Mitterrand family had asked for 800,000 francs ($160,000) in damages under France's strict privacy laws.

In the book, Gubler revealed that Mitterrand, a socialist who served two seven-year terms biginning in 1981, learned he had cancer within months of his election but kept it secret until 1992.

Despite a pledge of openness about his health, Mitterrand issued misleading medical bulletins twice a year.

(Reuter)

Indian Wildlife Expert Denies Threat to Tiger Survival



NEW DELHI – A wildlife expert has denied reports that tigers will be die out in India by the turn of the century, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Wednesday.

N.S. Adkoli, a former secretary of the Indian government's wildlife board, said reports, which also claimed two tigers were being slaughtered daily in the country, were "an exaggeration."

"Big news thrives on sensationalism, and exagerrated half-truths assist intrigue," he said, reacting to a program on the Hong Kong-based Star Plus satellite television channel.

His comments also came a day after the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) visited New Delhi and accused India of neglecting its tiger population.

EIA Director Dave Currey said: "The tiger has been delegated to India's political wilderness. The situation is desperate and the prime minister must act now."

The EIA's report, entitled "the political wilderness – India's tiger crisis", added: "The trade in tiger body parts has intensified because of the rapid increase in the demand for traditional Chinese medicine in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea."

It claimed poachers and dealers "when they are occasionally apprehended, are routinely released on bail and re-offend."

Adkoli, however, said that India's project tiger had created 24 reserves since its launch in 1972, adding that the number of tigers roaming the wild had doubled in that time.

Last month the Indian chapter of the World Wildlife Trust (WWF) denied accusations from another British-based organization, The Tiger Trust, that the big cats were not being adequately protected from poaching.

A census in 1993 put the number of surviving tigers in India at 3,750. The Tiger Trust, however, argues the actual figure of the big cats is less than 2,500.

(AFP)

N.Z., Jury Out in British Surgeon Manslaughter Trial

WELLINGTON — A New Zealand jury was unable to reach a verdict in the trial of a British surgeon accused of manslaughter over the deaths of three patients, a court official said.

A registrar at Wellington High Court said the jury of six men and six women was still out after five hours of deliberation in the case of 44-year-old Keith Douglas Ramstead.

They would resume their deliberations.

The British heart and lung surgeon had pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of three patients on whom he performed lung removal operations while working as a cardio-thoracic surgeon in New Zealand in 1991/92.

He also denied two charges of making false statements about two of the deaths.

During the four-week trial, the prosecution said Ramstead failed to use the reasonable standard of knowledge, skill and care of a competent thoracic surgeon and so was criminally negligent in the deaths of two men, aged 50 and 74, and an elderly woman at a Christ-Church Hospital.

Using diagrams to illustrate what he said were Ramstead's mistakes, prosecutor Brent Stanaway said in his closing address that Ramstead's defense was built on his own evidence about what happened, and this had been shown to be both unreliable and dishonest.

He said the defense had attempted to arouse compassion for Ramstead, who told the court that not being able to work as a surgeon since the charges were filed had destroyed his life.

"A verdict based on sympathy is not justice," Stanaway said.

However, the defense told the court there was no evidence that the Liverpool doctor was incompetent. In his closing address, defense lawyer David Collins said the prosecution's case was "fundamentally flawed" because its theories ignored the facts.

"During the course of this trial (we have) seen a number of experts... change their minds on very fundamental points," Collins said.

Collins finished by emphasizing to the jury a statement made by Leonie Van Dijk, the wife of one of the men who died during surgery.

"I still believe that Mr. Ramstead became a surgeon to save people's lives and not to kill them. That things can go wrong is normal but very sad," her statement said.

Ramstead returned to New Zealand to stand trial after an extradition battle lasting 2-1/2 years.

The trial involved detailed testimony of numerous medical professionals for both the prosecution and defense, with often conflicting views on crucial details of the operations.

"Rarely has a case of such complexity been put before New Zealand juries," Collins told the court.

(Reuter)

BLOIS, France (October 21): A young boy walks past a replica of a Gallo-Roman amphora made by schoolchildren with 6,000 used bottles and ground glass in front of the Castle of Blois, in the Loire Valley. The display is part of a campaign to promote recycling of glass.

(AFP PHOTO)

"Good Citizen" Award to Be Set Up in Name of Murdered British Teacher

LONDON -- An annual Good Citizenship Award for young people is to be set up to honor a London headmaster who was stabbed to death last year by a teenage "triad" gang, it emerged Tuesday.

Home Secretary Michael Howard, writing in the *Times* newspaper, said the prize would "recognize outstanding achievements of good citizenship by the young."

Howard, who is to officially announce the new award later Tuesday, said he would discuss details of the prize with the widow of murdered headteacher Philip Lawrence.

Frances Lawrence, whose husband was killed last December when he went to help one of his pupils, on Monday united Britain's politicians behind her call for a concerted drive to root out violence from society.

If turning her hopes into practical policies looked problematic, leaders of the major political parties rallied behind her "manifesto for the nation."

Prime Minister John Major said her call "touched a chord" and he expected her objectives to be shared by every serious political party.

Opposition labour leader Tony Blair said Lawrence had done a real service for the country and described her manifesto as "very exciting."

Lawrence's death rekindled the debate here on security in schools and led to tougher sanctions on people carrying knives in public places.

A National Amnesty was also introduced to encourage owners of knives to hand them over to the police.

Last week, the 16-year-old leader of a teenage gang that modelled itself on Chinese triad groups was convicted for Lawrence's murder and ordered to be detained indefinitely.

(AFP)

Chinese Kids Get a Whiff of High-Pressure Knowledge

BEIJING — Chinese parents are literally trying to breathe knowledge into their children, by sticking them in high-pressure oxygen tents before exams in a bid to boost their performance, a report said.

According to the *China Daily*, the trend was set by parents in the northern city of Tianjin, who specially ordered the oxygen tents from local hospitals just prior to final examinations in primary and secondary school.

"They believed high-pressure oxygen would alleviate their children's examination pressure, improve their intelligence and help them achieve high test scores," the newspaper said.

While voicing understanding for the parents' concern for their children's future, the *China Daily* warned that going to such extreme measures could prove counter-productive.

(AFP)





Success: The Six Golden Keys

This article is addressing the young generation, mainly the high school students or graduates and college students.

Tehran Times Service

More than five years of my life has been spent studying the lives of successful people. I wanted to discover the principles which they followed on their journey towards success.

You college students are interested in being successful or you would not go to college. The time and the money you spend in college is one of the best investments you will ever make.

College education is certainly one step in the right direction towards success. But in today's world, can a degree alone guarantee the kind of success that you want?

Did you know in the year you obtain your college degree there will be over 100,000 college graduates in the job market?

Let me ask you a question: Why should the prospective employer select you from among many other applicants with college degree? Why should you be better prepared to succeed? Keeping in mind that he can choose from among numerous graduates with identical grades in college.

Let me ask you another question: Do you know what you will be doing five years from now? No? Well, knowing the answer to this question is not as important as knowing how to be successful in whatever you decide to do.

One of the senators studied to become an engineer, another was trained to be a school teacher. Yet both became distinguished members of their parliament. Both were successful in any task set before them:

Five years after graduation, one student will be making a little progress in his job or profession. Another student, with identical grades in college, will be extremely successful. Why?

I have spent much of my time trying to find the answer to this question: Searching in the professions like teaching, business, medicine, law, the ministry and many other occupations has shown me that these people have a few basic qualities in common.

You can develop some of the same qualities and take advantage of limitless opportunities ahead of you. Your opportunities challenge the imagination. Your college generation will continue the probe of the frontiers of outer space. You will live to see some of your fellow students make startling discoveries in the field of medicine or other fields.

If you are to take advantage of some of the impressive opportunities ahead of you, you need to learn to do the things successful people do. You are required to develop some of the same qualities.

Now let us look at these qualities carefully:

The first one is very important. A great statesman once said: "The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.

The best lawyer is not necessarily a person who knows the most complicated points of law. But he is a person who knows how to communicate with judge, his clients and jury.

Each of us has a favorite doctor. None of us can judge which doctor has the most medical knowledge. But the real reason we like him/her is that he knows how to handle us and how to motivate us to believe in him and follow his/her prescription.

Now let us look at some of our best teachers. Nobody could find out how educated that teacher was. What was the actual reason that he attracted your interest? Wasn't it because he understood you and knew how to motivate you to study?

A second quality which leaders have is a positive mental attitude. One of the Olympic champions who was the first man to run a 1,500 meters in less than four minutes said he conditioned both his mind and his muscles to achieve his goal.

A positive mental attitude is a valuable asset, whether you are looking for a job, preparing for a sport competition or a test at school, asking for a date or appointment or giving a proposal.

A third quality which successful people have is

self-discipline. Great concert pianists discipline themselves to practice many hours each day. A leader is self-motivated and there is no need for a superior or some one else to monitor or control his achievements and progress.

A fourth quality of leaders is teachability. They learn from their own as well as someone else's mistakes and never repeat the same mistake.

And finally successful people are persistent. When pursuing a goal perseverance is a highly valuable asset.

Perseverance alone is omnipotent: Nothing in the world takes the place of persistence. Genius will not. Unpaid genius is almost a proverb. Talent will not. There are countless talented people who never use their talent. If you persist you can be sure to succeed. Endurance and patience sometimes brings wonders. You will be amazed at how doors open before you as a result of your persistence. Jesus said: seek, and you shall find. Ask, and you shall be given and knock, and the door shall be opened onto you.

The successful people also make a habit of doing the things they do not like to do and vice versa. Because they are aware of the fact that "*man is the slave of his habits*".

HEALTH CAPSULES®
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Smoking is Hazardous to Your Health
Cigarettes May Promote Blindness

Not that you needed another reason to avoid smoking. But in case cancer, heart disease and bad breath are not reason enough, two new studies offer another one: blindness.

Writing in the recent issue of Journal of the American Medicine Association, a pair of Boston-based research teams strongly link smoking to "age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a degenerative eye condition that is the leading cause of blindness in older people.

In the first study, researchers followed 32,000 female nurses for 12 years, periodically checking their smoking habits and health status. Those puffing at least 25 cigarettes a day suffered two and a half times the AMD rate of those who had never smoked.

Thought

Jesus, peace be with him, passed by a grave whose occupant was being chastised. Then he passed it the following year when he was not being chastised. He said: O Lord! I passed through this town last year and he was being chastised, and I passed through it this year while he is not being chastised. Then Allah revealed to him: O Spirit of Allah! Verily one of his children matured and cleared some way and sheltered an orphan. Then I forgave him for the deeds of his child.

PRAYER

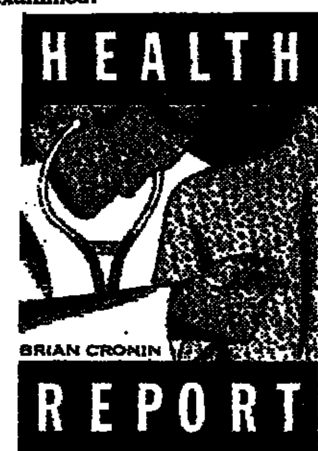
Noon..........................11:48
Evening.......................17:36
Dawn (tomorrow)...............4:48
Sunrise (tomorrow)............6:21

New Breath Test for Ulcers

WASHINGTON — A new breath test allowing doctors to detect ulcers in patients simply by having them drink a solution and blow into a balloon goes on the market this week, Meretek Inc. announced Tuesday.

The new technique, considered revolutionary, rendered accurate test results 95 percent of the time in clinical trials, the company said. The patient merely drinks a solution that can detect the presence of the bacteria "helicobacter pylori," which causes ulcers, and then exhales into a collection device for analysis.

Until now, the only way to verify whether a patient has an ulcer has been a process known as endoscopy with a stomach biopsy, whereby a piece of tissue from the stomach area is removed and examined.



First HIV-Positive Infant Birth Reported in Indonesia

JAKARTA — Indonesian authorities have for the first time reported a case of an infant born in the country with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, a report said.

Abdul Manaf, the head of the directorate of communicable-disease control at the ministry of health, was quoted as saying there were now a total of 449 people in Indonesia who had acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or were HIV-positive.

He said 341 were HIV-positive while 108 had full blown AIDS.

Community health workers here claim the real figures are much higher.

The Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare, Azwar Anas, projected last year that the number of HIV-infected people could reach 3,000 in 1996 and 2.5 million in 2000).

هكذا من الأصل

A Glance at Women's Sports Activities During Recent Years

معاونت ورزش بانوان استان تهران



DR. NAZAR ALI

During the years after culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, women have proven their capabilities in shouldering various responsibilities in all fields. Today, the Iranian Muslim woman is not merely a housewife, rather she is proving her pivotal role in the society — in economic, social, cultural, political and specially sports arenas.

Women's Sports General Department, has taken valuable steps to prepare facilities for Iranian women to participate in sports activities. The head of the general department, Dr. Parvaneh Nazar Ali, took part in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times* to elaborate on the activities and objectives of the department·

Q: What positive steps have been taken by the general department to promote the status of women's sport in Iran?

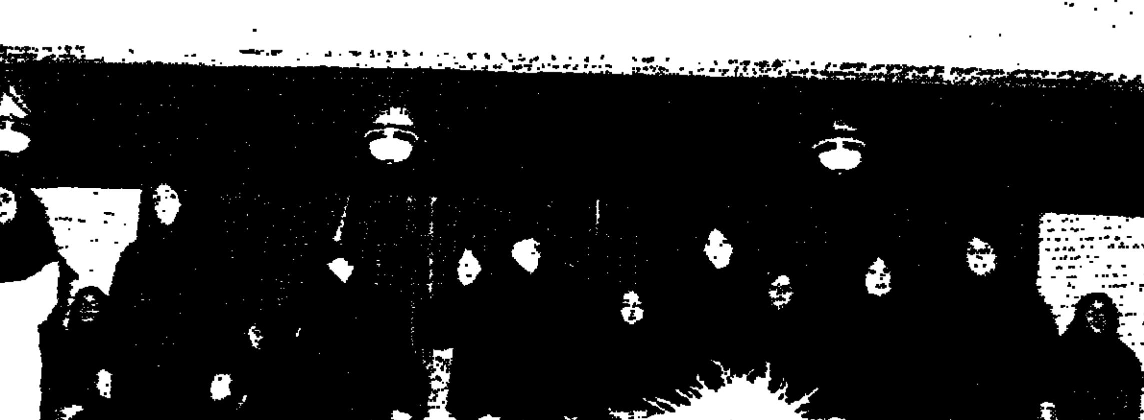
A: During the 2 and a half years that I assumed the responsibility, steps have been taken to launch activities in many fields simultaneously. For instance, the department has been active in the sectors of education, competition, procuring facilities, research and studies side by side. The activities and achievements of the department and women's sports in the province are reflected in monthly bulletins.





Q: How many sport clubs or complexes have been allocated to the women in Tehran? What fields do they cover?

A: According to the requirements of the Islamic management men and women's sports activities should be segregated. Due to financial limitations on one hand, and the large number of the interested on the other, in some courses as swimming and sauna we have some problems. For the latter we created dry and steam saunas. Hijab sports saloon is offering services in volleyball, basketball, handball, badminton, physical fitness, karate. Another complex for the women is Shahid Keshvardoost which contains body building, swimming and sauna courses for the women. No.2 saloon of Hijab Sports Complex is another sports center for the women which contains table tennis, gymnastics, judo, karate, tae kwon do courses. Shahid Aghili (former Cheizar), located in Cheizar Square includes most of the sports fields in two sections: a) body building saloon with various sports apparatus; b) first floor saloon which includes volleyball, basketball, badminton, physical fitness, gymnastics, table tennis, etc.



Generally speaking, there are some 5 complexes for the women in the province. Due to the ever-increasing need to sports centers for women, these complexes cannot be enough for sports activities of the women in the province. Steps have been taken to increase the number of complexes in near future.



Q: How do you compare and contrast the present status of women's sports in Iran and other countries? What priorities do the Iranian sportswomen hold?

A: If we consider the comparison in the number of medals, no doubt we are far behind foreign countries in sports fields. The most important factor, however, is the purpose behind sports activities of the women in Iran. Professional sports at high levels are not the objective of Iranian sportswomen. The reasons why they attend international and national competitions are two: to create strong motifs for our sportswomen, and to say that women's sports in Iran are not limited.

Iranian sportswomen does not start her sports activities for a span of 6 months or one year. According to the requirements of our Islamic cultural system the prime duty of a Muslim woman is do household affairs first and then pay attention to sports objectives.

Q: What steps have been taken by the general department to maintain Islamic values when performing sports activities?

A: Regarding the fact that women's sports activities in Iran are all carried out within Islamic contexts, we have done a lot to maintain the

(Contd on Pg. 9)





Women's Sports General Department, Activities and Objectives





(Contd from Pg. 8)

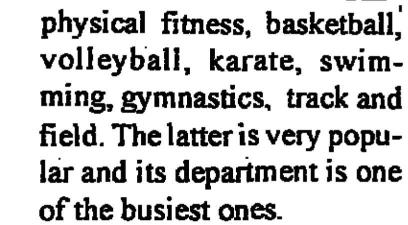
Islamic values by creating suitable conditions, according to the Islamic norms. As in the case of outdoor sports activities, we have veiled well the sports field on all sides. For the overseas sports events we have provided our sportswomen with suitable covers. Thus we have no difficulty in this regard.

Q: How many sports associations do you have around the country?

A: Generally speaking, we have 26 sports departments for the sportswomen in Tehran Province. Also 23 societies work under the supervision of these 26 departments.

The general department has 4 other departments namely golf, hockey, squash and cycling, which are not present in the state Physical Education Society.

We do not have some departments and federations in the country for women: golf, hockey, squash, ect. which are favored by a special group. We do not create facilities in the aforesaid courses, because we believe they are luxurious kind of sports. But in the fields of physical fitness, basketball, volleyball, karate, swimming, gymnastics, track and field. The latter is very popular and its department is one of the busiest ones.



We also have a non-sports department which offers medical aids to the sportswomen.



Q: Do you have classes on some sports fields for women which are common around the world?

A: We have classes for all fields present in Olympic games. For some fields, however, which are in contrast with Islamic values and norms, we do not hold classes.

Q: In what overseas courses have the Iranian women been successful?

A: We are active in overseas sports courses namely chess, handicapped tennis, shooting, ski, boating and horse back riding. Consider the fact that we had no overseas activities and our sportswomen had no classes at international levels, but we stood fourth in shooting and boating in Asian games. Also we bagged silver medal in chess; in ski we stood fifth and sixth. The results have been satisfactory.

Q: What do you expect from the responsible authorities in the field to improve the status of women's sports in Iran?

A: Due to the fact that our country is always under cultural invasion, allocating more facilities to the women's sports in Iran can bring health to mothers, thus ensure the health of next generation. In other words, health of body, spirit and mind are the results of paying attention to the women's sports.

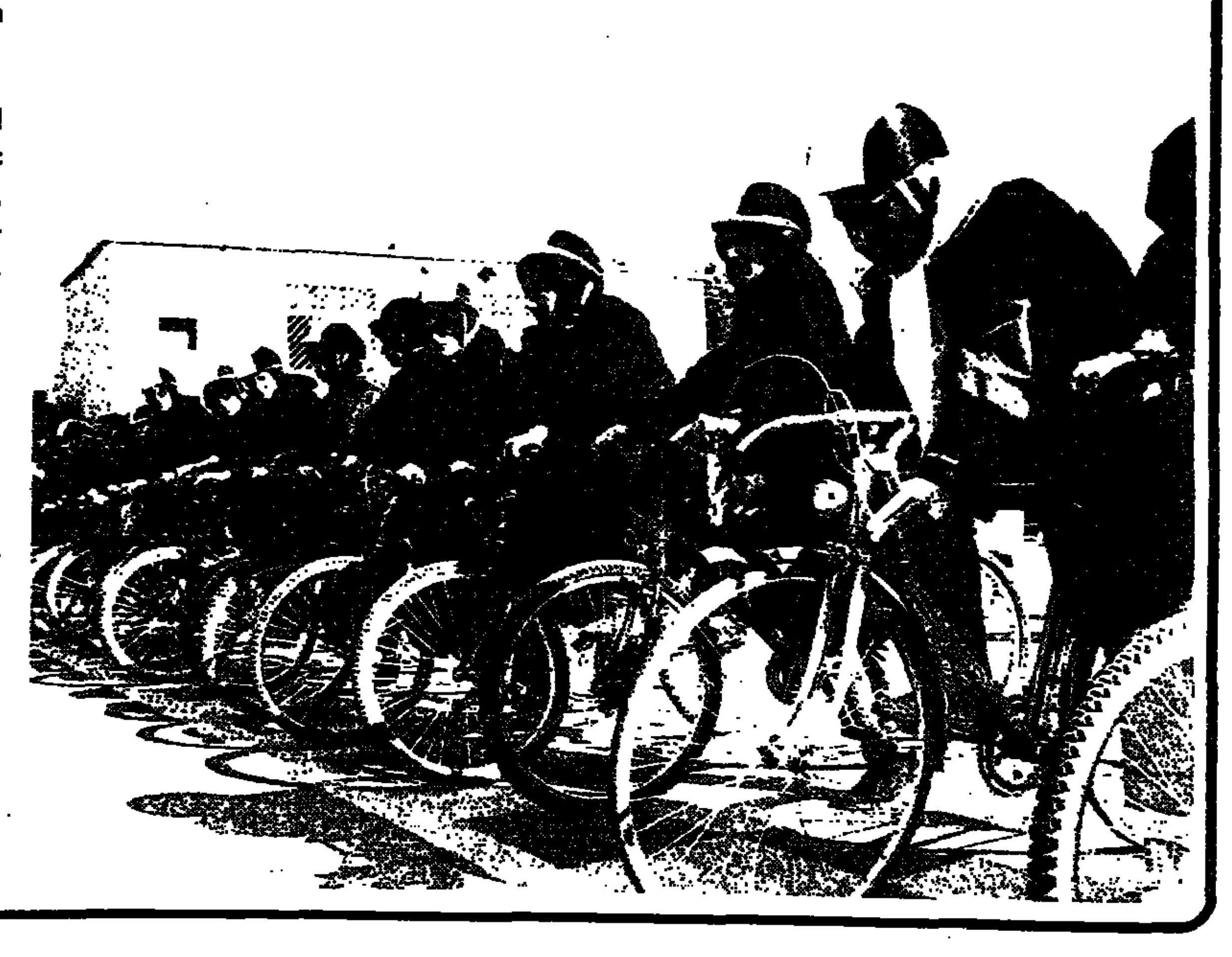


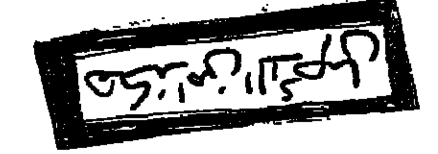
Q: Do you have any message for the women in Iran?

A: I recommend the Iranian women to pick up physical exercises before referring to doctors, who, in turn, suggest sports activities.

I hope in the 7th International Exposition for Exporting Sports Cargos, the competition will be better than before. These expositions and fairs perfect our sports activities here in Iran.

Fields	Organized	Unorganized
Physical Fitness	22,000	22,000
Ski	50	450
Squash	70	30
Badminton	150	470
Basketball	1,800	1,800
Tennis	140	220
Table Tennis	350	70
Shooting	80	220
Track and Field	210	120
Martial Arts	800	8,000
Gymnastics	1,600	2,100
Horse Back Riding	90	290
Chess	450	600
Swimming	150	8,000
Fencing	25	39
Mountain Climbing	260	12,800
War Handicapped	90	80
Lifeguarding	380	—
Volleyball	680	3,200
Hockey	—	65
Handball	450	400
Public	5,000	950
Total	34,825	62,845





First Lawsuits Filed in TWA 800 Disaster

NEW YORK — The 25 families suing Boeing and TWA for negligence in the TWA flight 800 disaster are demanding a minimum of $75 million each, their lawyer said.

Lee Kreindler, who successfully represented family members of victims of Pan Am flight 103 – which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 – argues that mechanical failure caused the Boeing 747 to explode and crash.

He filed the first two complaints on behalf of victims' families against TWA and Boeing in a New York Federal Court. His clients include 19 U.S. families, three from France, two from Norway and one from Italy.

The Paris-bound TWA flight 800 exploded shortly after takeoff from New York on July 17, crashing into the Atlantic Ocean and killing all 230 aboard.

"We felt from the very early stage that a mechanical failure was the cause of the catastrophe," Kreindler told AFP. "The exhaustive investigation on our own is now completed enough that we can file complaints."

The lawyer claims a defective fuel pump caused a spark that led to an explosion in the central fuel tank, which was nearly empty but contained fuel vapors.

Navy divers are still trying to find the fuel pump, while Boeing has ruled out the possibility of that explosion scenario.

Kreindler also claims that the Boeing 747-100 has a design problem and that the one used in the ill-fated flight was too old, noting it was made to fly 60,000 hours but instead had registered 101,000.

Since Boeing is not an airline, it could be held liable for more than the $75,000 spelled out in the Warsaw Convention, according to another lawyer working on the case.

Kreindler admits that his own probe, for which he has hired a former Boeing engineer and an explosives specialist, was largely based on press accounts. He did not have access to the wreckage pulled off the ocean floor by divers.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is coordinating the probe, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), still say there are three possible causes for the crash: mechanical failure, a bomb or a missile attack.

"I don't think there's the slightest evidence for a bomb or a missile," Kreindler said. However, the lawsuits acknowledge that possibility and accuse TWA of "willful misconduct" by putting its passenger's in harm's way.

"The NTSB has to find the probable cause. We don't have such a high burden," Kreindler said.

Officials charged with investigating the crash have greeted Kreindler's claims with skepticism.

"How a group of individuals can reach conclusions having never seen the wreckage or participated in the investigation brings a new twist to the information age," said James Kallstrom, the leading FBI investigator in the case, in a *New York Times* interview.

And Mark Abels, a TWA spokesman, told CBS-TV that "there are lots of unproven speculations out there. Mr. Kreindler's theory clearly falls into that category."

(AFP)

Deng Is Not as Healthy as Family Members Say

HONG KONG — China's aging patriarch Deng Xiaoping is not as healthy as family members have routinely made out, a newspaper citing Chinese officials said.

The health of Deng, who turned 92 on August 22, was "not as ideal" as reported, a well-informed source was quoted by the independent Chinese-language *Tin Tin* daily news as saying.

The source said Deng had "nearly lost his hearing" and "his ability to talk and walk was not very ideal."

Another reliable Chinese official was also quoted as saying that "no one believes that Deng's health is good anymore," adding that his ability to express himself had deteriorated.

The official, however, dismissed overseas rumors that the patriarch was suffering from Parkinson's disease.

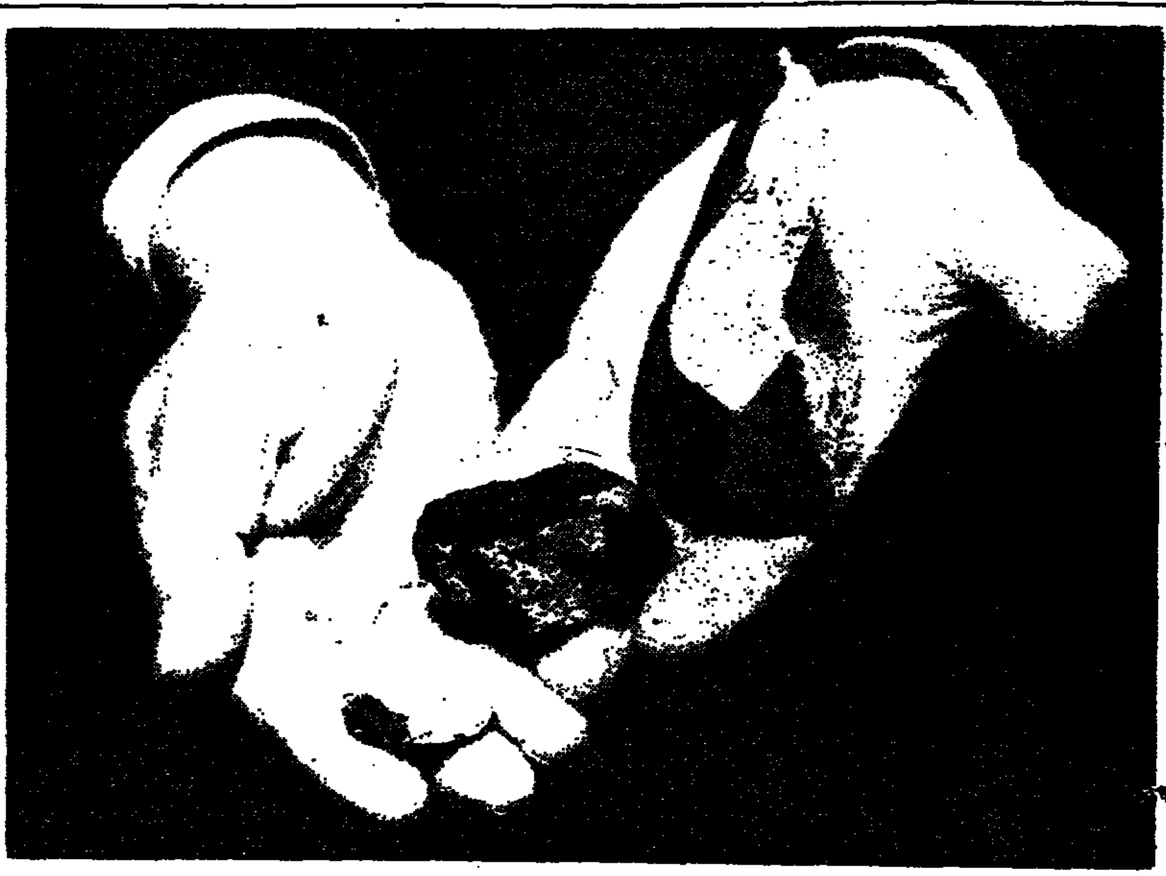
Deng was last seen in public during the February, 1994 lunar new year celebrations, when he appeared on television looking frail and ill.

Deng's health has been a source of frequent speculation for years, although family members continue to insist he will realize his ambition of seeing Hong Kong return to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

Last month, his eldest daughter Deng Lin, a painter, was quoted as saying in Tokyo that her father was still keen on visiting Hong Kong after the handover, adding his health was "excellent."

The patriarch made known his desire to visit Hong Kong when he visited the southern Shenzhen special economic zone in 1992 when he said he would realize his dream to visit the territory even if he had to do it in a wheelchair and for just a few minutes.

(AFP)



NEW YORK, United States (October 21): Martian meteorites of the Shergottite (R) Nakhlite (C) and Chassignite (L) type are displayed in New York. Scientists believe that signs of life have been found in Shergottite material. The rocks, frequently referred to as the SNC meteorites, will be offered at auction November 20 in New York.

(AFP PHOTO)

Achievements in Poverty Eradication

More than one-fifth of the world's people live in extreme poverty, on little more than $1.00 a day. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) sees poverty as a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, involving people's lack of empowerment, as well as their lack of income and basic services.

UNDP supports programs that assist governments and organizations of civil society in developing economic and social policies and programs to address the whole range of factors that contribute to poverty. Among other things, these programs seek to increase food security; improve the availability and quality of shelter and basic services; generate opportunities for employment and sustainable livelihoods; empower women and men through access to assets and productive resources such as land, credit, technology, training and markets; and enable people to participate in the political forces that shape their lives. Here are some examples.

China: Targeting 80 Million

China's '8-7' programs aims to raise the living standards of the 80 million Chinese citizens who still live below the poverty line, in seven years. This program includes a poverty eradication initiative targeting six poor countries in southwestern China, supported by UNDP and several UN agencies. It emphasizes income generation, health and education, and features a participatory approach.

UNDP is supporting the work of the China Community corps in identifying poor households and organizing members into self-help groups. The World Food Program (WFP) is contributing food aid to support terracing and other sustainable agricultural practices. UNICEF provides maternal/child health care and primary education. The International Fund for agricultural Development (IFAD) provides for rural credit. (Duration: 1994-2001; Partners: China, WFP, UNICEF, IFAD)

Sudan: Area Development Schemes

Area Development schemes in five drought-prone rural areas of Sudan take a participatory approach to eradicating poverty in an environmentally sustainable way.

Developed in collaboration with several UN agencies, the schemes have benefitted half a million people in 2,000 of the country's poorest villages. Participants have been mobilized, organized and trained to select, implement and manage activities through village development committees, over 30 percent of whose members are women. Credit comes from revolving funds jointly financed by the communities and UNDP.

Fields covers include agriculture, afforestation, water supply, handicrafts, small-scale industry, and other income generating pursuits. The approach will be replicated in other countries. (Duration: 1990-1996; Partners: Sudan, with technical assistance from United Nations Office for Project Services, Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, International Labor Organization and United Nations Department for Developing Support and Management Services. Related social services provided by UNICEF (in one province) and food-for-work by World Food Program)



Ethiopia: Social Rehabilitation Fund

Ethiopia emerged from nearly 30 years of civil strife with thousands of communities in need of rehabilitation, thousands of returning refugees and some 400,000 demobilized soldiers. The Ethiopian Social Rehabilitation and Development Fund began to test a self-help, community-based approach to rehabilitation and development in 1992. In the initial phase, 1,220,000 people benefitted from more than 200 projects: clinics, schools, drainage facilities, communal latrines, small dams and income generating enterprises like grinding mills, quarries and electrical workshops.

Community organizations, local government staffs and NGOs simultaneously improved project planning and implementation capacities. The fund is being expanded to implement small-scale, community-based projects throughout rural Ethiopia. UNDP is helping to mobilize the $243 million required for this phase, and to put together machinery to effectively manage these resources. (Duration: Pilot phase: 1992-95; Current phase: 1995-97; Ethiopia, World Bank, Canada, Italy, Norway, Sweden)

El Salvador: Supporting Small Farmers

Some 7,000 farmers in the Cabanos and San Vicente departments of El Salvador have benefitted from UNDP support to the Project Execution Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. Of these, more than 2,000 small agricultural producers have received credits totalling $1.1 million. Approximately 2,500 Project Execution Unit technicians and small producers have been trained in sustainable agricultural techniques, entrepreneurial development and credit management. Twenty-six demonstration farms have been established to carry out research and extension activities. Six pilot commercial groups have been established, resulting in the farmers paying lower prices for seeds and fertilizer, and receiving high prices for their produce. Many farmers have diversified their production from basic crops and are now producing vegetables and fruit. (Duration: 1993-99; Partners: Ecuador, Central American Bank for Economic Integration)

(Courtesy the UNDP)

Refugees Accuse Zairean Troops of Killing Tutsi Civilians

GITARAMA, Rwanda — Tutsi refugees from eastern Zaire said here they had been forced from their homes by Zairean troops and their menfolk killed.

Some 100 women and children have been sheltered since the end of September in a school in this town of central Rwanda after crossing the border from Zaire.



They are known as Banyamulenge, ethnic Tutsis originally from Rwanda who have lived in what is now eastern Zaire.

Fighting that has flared up between Banyamulenge guerrillas and Zairean forces threatened to set the whole region ablaze, with Zaire accusing the Tutsi governments of Burundi and Rwanda of attacking Zairean territory.

Bujumbura and Kigali say Kinshasa is persecuting a group which is trying to defend the right to Zairean nationality which has been threatened since a law of 1981.

A middle-aged woman named Abia said Zairean troops had come to their village accusing them of hiding arms. "They searched the houses and found nothing, but they took away a man," she said.

"The next day they came back, they looted the shops and houses, and took away another three or four men."

Two days afterwards the soldiers returned and forced everyone out the village, Abia said.

"We could take nothing with us. I had only a skirt and blouse," another woman, Julia, 36, added.

Held prisoner overnight, the villagers were taken by boat on Lake Tanganyika to the town of Uvira, one of the centers of the current fighting, then put into trucks and transported further north before being dumped near the Rwandan border.

Their 40 men, mainly farmers, were shot by the Zaireans, the women claimed.

"The soldiers said we were Rwandans and we had to go," Abia added.

The women said they had lived in eastern Zaire for generations and had lived in harmony with other local groups, as well as with the soldiers, who knew them well.

They said they knew nothing of any weapons which were supposedly being used by young Banyamulenge men against Zairean troops.

The Zairean government formally accused "Rwandan and Burundi armed forces" of attacking Zaire, citing the presence of 1,700 troops in the South Kivu region in the east of the country.

A statement issued after an emergency cabinet meeting said "elements of the Burundi and Rwandan armed forces, numbering almost 1,700 troops, have attacked the area of Zairean territory located between Buenguera Et Luvungi."

Both localities are in the north of the troubled Uvira region near the point of junction of the borders between Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda.

It was the first time the Zaire authorities had specifically accused its neighbors' armed forces without referring to "infiltrations" by Banyamulenge.

The statement also accused "Rwandan Army elements" of attacking villages in the neighboring Province of North Kivu where, it said, Zairean troops had repulsed "Rwandan Army attacks at Kibumba, Rugari Et Bunagana", localities north of the provincial capital Goma.

Earlier in London Zairean Prime Minister Leon Kengo Wa Dondo announced he was cutting short a visit to the British capital, blaming the growing insecurity in eastern Zaire on Rwanda and Burundi.

Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, who is convalescing in Switzerland after an operation for prostate cancer, also called on the government "to give absolute priority to taking the necessary measures to ensure territorial integrity and overcome all invaders," state television reported.

"President Mobutu calls on the people of Zaire to remain confident in the Zairean armed forces and to the authorities in charge of the country's security," a presidential statement said.

The fighting has also forced hundreds of thousands of Hutus who fled ethnic clashes in Rwanda and Burundi from their refugee camps in eastern Zaire, and prevented aid workers from assisting them. *(AFP)*

Irish Plan to Feed Poor With Surplus Beef

PARIS — Mountains of beef stockpiled in Europe because of the "mad cow crisis could be used to feed the poor, Irish Agriculture Minister Ivan Yates said.

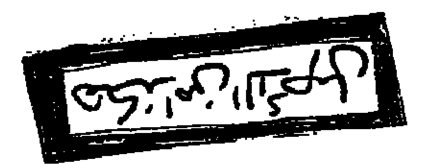
Beef stocks have been building in cold storage rooms since the European Union introduced measures to prop up a market devastated by the "mad cow" scare, and are expected to reach about 700,000 tons by the end of the year.

Ireland, which currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency, plans to raise the "food aid" proposal at a world food summit in Rome in mid-November, Yates said, without elaborating on the plan.

European agriculture ministers recently decided to increase the ceiling on EU intervention purchases of beef to 460,000 tons until mid-November as a temporary measure to counter the effects of the crisis.

Yates, in Paris for an international food fair, said that beef consumption in Ireland has recovered but remains 10 percent below usual levels because of the epidemic of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in British cattle.

The minister said it was regrettable that Britain had decided not to go ahead with a selective slaughter of 147,000 cattle judged most at risk of BSE. *(AFP)*



Ghana's Interior Minister Resigns After Graft Ruling

ACCRA — Ghana's Interior Minister Osei Owusu announced his resignation Monday, less than a week after an independent commission found serious anomolies in his income.

In his resignation letter to President Jerry Rawlings, retired Colonel Owusu said he would contest the ruling of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, which found the minister in possession of 33 million cedis (about $20,000) in excess of his declared income for the period between April 1993 and June 1995.

Rawlings accepted Owusu's resignation, sources close the president said.

Owusu, who was unable to provide a satisfactory explanation for the discrepancy, described the commission ruling as "grossly unfair and highly disputable in the face of facts and evidence available," according to a senior Interior Ministry official who read the resignation letter.

Owusu said he resigned in order to concentrate on protecting "his honor and hard-won reputation", the official told AFP.

The commission, mandated by Rawlings to investigate press allegations of graft among government officials, recommended that Owusu refund the excess income to the state.

Its rulings, against not only Owusu but also Trade Industries Minister Ibrahim Adam and a presidential staffer, come at a delicate time for Rawlings, just seven weeks ahead of parliamentary and presidential polls in which Rawlings is standing for reelection.

(AFP)

Kinkel Says Germany-China Troubles Resolved

BEIJING — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said on Monday that troubles in Bonn's ties with Beijing had now been resolved as a result of his visit to China.

"There had been bumps in Sino-German relations... but things are now resolved," Kinkel told reporters, after meeting his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Beijing.

Kinkel, who arrived in China on Monday for a five-day visit, said Qian had underlined that Beijing was interested in building up Sino-German relations, strained in recent months by a dispute over China's policies in its restive Himalayan region of Tibet.

Kinkel told reporters there were good prospects for further exchanges on economic matters between Beijing and Bonn. Germany is China's largest European trade partner.

Human rights issues and other important points in the relationship had been discussed, including the cases of Chinese dissidents Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng, Kinkel said, but gave no details.

"We had a dialogue, that means that everybody listens to each other," he said.

(Reuter)

Taiwan to Tighten Up on Links With Mainland China

TAIPEI — Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui on Monday said Taiwan should slow efforts to reconcile with China and concentrate on developing its own economy and strength.

"Let us avoid haste and show restraint," Lee said, "our mainland policy must start with keeping our roots in Taiwan, improving our infrastructure and building up our national strength."

In a defiant tone, Lee also slammed China's "hegemonic stance" which he said had obstructed the progress of semi-official talks between the two sides. Taipei and Beijing have had no diplomatic relations since splitting at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

"Regrettably, the Beijing authorities failed to understand the trend of the times, and stuck to a hegemonic stance and rigid policies for dealing with Taiwan, single-handedly blocking the progress of history and stalling the process of cross-straits relations," he said.

Lee told National Unification Council, set up in 1990 to prepare for the reunification of Taiwan and China, that if China's attitude improves he will scriously consider visiting the mainland to seek to end hostility. He made a similar offer on May 20.

Cross-strait relations, never cordial, were soured by Lee's visit to the United States 15 months ago, a trip interpreted by China as an attempt to promote Taiwan's independence.

Lee had loosened his policy towards the mainland before his trip, opening the doors to greater economic and other non-political exchanges, despite a longstanding ban on direct contact with China.

But soon after the visit, China suspended the semi-official talks conducted by Taipei's Straits Exchange Foundation and Beijing's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait and started the first of six military exercises off the coast.

Some 30,000 Taiwanese businesses have indirectly invested more than $28 billion in China with or without government approval.

(AFP)

Taking Hold of Center Stage

Tony Blair has reformed the Labour Party and is ready to take on the Tories

His nickname may be "Bambi," but when Tony Blair strode into the spotlight on the stage of the Empress Ballroom of Blackpool's Winter Gardens early October to deliver his keynote speech to the party faithful, he hardly resembled a deer caught in the headlights. What delegates and the country at large saw — and heard — was the man who is the bookmakers' odds — on favorite to lead a rejuvenated Labour Party out of 17 years in Britain's political wilderness and win himself a stay at 10 Downing Street.

Carefully crafted to inspire his troops and set an unbeatable agenda for the general election that must take place by May 22, 1997, Blair's forceful speech reflected the profound changes he has wrought in the Labour Party during his short two-year stint-as leader. With single-minded determination, which some say borders on ruthlessness, Blair has built upon the modernization of the party begun in the late 1980s by predecessors Neil Kinnock and the late John Smith and dragged it by the scruff of its neck into the modern political era.

In early October Blair surveyed his handiwork and declared Labour a "changed party." He and his followers now call the party New Labour. Out went most of the dated socialist rhetoric and nostrums that have characterized Labour since it was founded in 1906 as a movement dedicated to championing the working class. In came new policies designed to win over the votes of an electorate that has long rejected the tax-and-spend instincts of Old Labour. Tony Blair's New Labour is no longer committed to the nationalization of key industries, to extravagant spending on social benefits, or to employing the income tax as a means of redistributing wealth. "Forget the past," urged Blair. "No more bosses versus workers. You are on the same side. The same team."

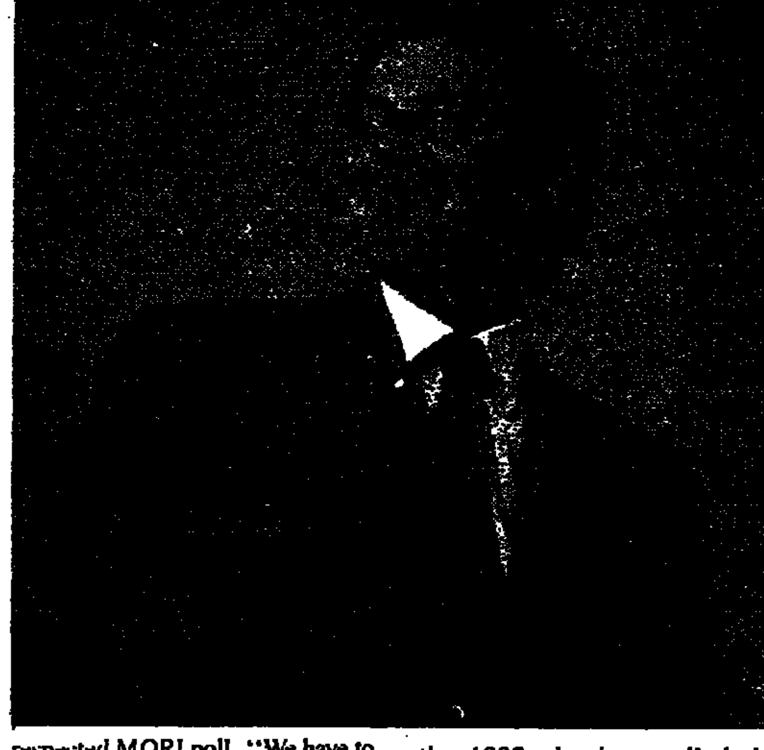
In the past 12 months, Blair has devoted as much energy to preaching his new message of enterprise and partnership to business leaders as he has to cajoling union supported still wedded to welfare socialism. To the regret of many in the left wing of his party, he has shifted Labour's political philosophy sharply toward the center.

With one eye on a wary nation that already considers itself over-taxed, Blair set out a cautious plan for government spending: "I will not make promises on money until I know that they can be kept. This is our guiding rule and there can be no exceptions to it." He promised to focus on "education, education, education," but said he would fund any reforms by reallocating present government revenues rather than raising taxes. Said he: "Labour will be the party of sound finance and good housekeeping." And to ram home the message, Blair dubbed Gordon Brown, the dour Scot responsible for treasury matters, his "Iron Chancellor," and charged him with holding the line on spending.

Not everyone in the hall was dazzled by Blair's speech and the changes he had made to the party. Delegate John Cogger, president of the National union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers, still attends the conference dressed in Old Labour gear: a bright red blazer with union pin firmly affixed to the lapel. "My day is gone," lamented Cogger, 55, a tone of nostalgia heavy in his voice. "The party has been reformed to appeal to youth and people who are different from me. Frankly, this glitzy stuff of New Labour is not my style. But I'm no longer in the majority in this party."

Resigned, Cogger and other union leaders held their tongues during this year's meeting and cast their votes for Blair's agenda. When party veteran Barbara Castle, 85, delivered a passionate speech demanding that the party pledge itself to increase old-age pensions, she received a standing ovation. But when the votes were counted, the delegates rejected her motion. "Their hearts may have been with Barbara," said MP Michael Brown, "But their heads are with Tony Blair. When push comes to shove, they want to win the election."

That remains the bottom line. Labour's last victory was in 1976, and the party has lost four consecutive election since. "I've spent nearly two decades of the prime of my life being in opposition," says Robin Cook, Labour's shadow foreign secretary. "But we are going to win this time." Yet Cook, in common with other Labour leaders, avoided any show of triumphalism despite a substantial 23-point lead in the respected MORI poll. "We have to fight against complacency," warned deputy party leader John Prescott. In 1992 the polls showed Labour 3 points ahead going into the election, yet John Major's Tories managed to win by 8 points.



Could that happen again? Possibly. Even Labour politicians admit that the polls may not reflect the whole story. Many voters, Labourites fear, are reluctant to admit to canvassers that they support the widely unpopular and unfashionable Tories. But when election day comes around these voters may still vote Conservative for fear that New Labour is not quite as new as Blair insists.

Another fear is that traditional Labour voters might stay home on election day, allowing the Tories a victory by default. Blair's lead may lull some voters into thinking that the party does not need their support. Blair might also lose a few voters from the hard left who resent his reforms.

The talk in early October around the bar at Blackpool's Imperial Hotel, a favored watering hole for politicians and journalists during the party conference, was that only two people in Britain believe that the Tories might actually defy the pollsters and win the election: Prime Minister John Major and Tony Blair. That explains why Blair two week ago never stopped trying to convince voters that New Labour, with its new devotion to low taxes and moderate spending, could be trusted in power.

He may have had some success. The mass circulation *Sun*, a sever critic and nemesis of Labour during the 1992 election, called the Labour leader's speech a "breath of fresh Blair." The Labour leader, wrote the *Sun*, may, after all, be "genuine" in his pledge not to raise taxes and that could just "be enough to win him the election."

Last week Major hoped to gather some favorable coverage himself when his Conservatives met for their annual conference in Bournemouth. Major would try to persuade voters that his government deserves credit for the recent improvement in the economy. He could take some joy in reports that MORI's index of economic optimism has shot up from a minus 19 points a year ago to about even in recent months. Yet over the past year, even as the economy — and people's feelings about it — have improved, Major's popularity has continued to languish.

Major has two problems that just never seem to go away. His party is riven by a deep ideological split over Britain's policy toward the European Union, a rift that could widen still further last week. The British electorate abhors a divided party, which is why Blair works so hard to keep the divisions within his own ranks under wraps. Equallyas damaging, the Tories have been dogged by scandal and on the eve of last week's conference yet another Tory MP was under fire, this time for accepting improper payments from a lobbyist. When Major stepped onto the stage in Bournemouth he too would be standing in the glare of spotlights. He hoped they would not make him a sharper target.

(Courtesy the *Time magazine*)

Victims of History, Sandinistas Seem Destined for Now to Opposition

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In the 1980s, the Sandinistas were the darlings of the international left, young guerrillas who had overthrown right-wing dictator Anastasio Somoza and defied the capitalist power of the United States.

But the world changed faster than they did and the Sandinistas became victims of their own arrogance. The former rebels who ruled Nicaragua for a decade seem destined to remain - at least for now - in the opposition.

In recent years, the Sandinistas have become political pragmatists, renouncing parts of their past. But they have never been able to convince many Nicaraguans that they have changed, nor explain what they have become.

That was apparent this week when voters for the second straight election rejected the Sandinistas and their leader Daniel Ortega in favor of a conservative for president.

"They rejected their past and canceled their future," said Emilio Alvarez Montalban, a conservative who has been discussed as a possible cabinet member in the government of Arnoldo Aleman.

With slightly more than half of the vote counted Tuesday, Aleman, a former Managua mayor and rightist businessman seemed destined for the presidency with a lead of nearly 10 percentage points over Ortega.

"Their ideological basis collapsed with Eastern Europe and so did their economic support," said Alvarez. "They stayed with their traditional, historic clientele and lost their intellectual capital and have not been able to articulate a new ideological identity."

Since losing the presidency in 1990 to coalition candidate Violeta Chamorro, the Sandinistas have slowly backed away from their former hardline past. The changes were underscored during the presidential campaign.

They traded their government policies of centralized planning and state ownership for one of free market economy and incentives for foreign investments. They shed the former military trappings and even hid the party radicals.

But that didn't erase their past policies and actions from the memories of most Nicaraguans.

"It is a pity that they never actually did the good things they had promised," said Jaime Chamorro, director of the *La Prensa* newspaper and a son-in-law of the outgoing president.

"Instead, their arrogance destroyed everything," said Chamorro, who initially supported the Sandinistas after Somoza was ousted in 1979.

Ortega, who led the Sandinista government Junta and later was elected president, pleaded with voters during his campaign for a second chance, assuring them that past mistakes would not be repeated.

But not everyone was persuaded.

They remembered how the Sandinistas went after the church in a Roman Catholic country, against the United States in a region the United States considers strategically important and against the private sector in a traditionally independent and business-oriented society.

They didn't forgot how Sandinista dependence on the socialist bloc ruined their economy. During the Sandinista reign, the national currency, the cordoba, went from 7 to the dollar to 25,000 to the dollar.

But perhaps the strongest memory was of how Sandinistas ended up tangled in a shooting war with U.S.-financed rebels.

Sandinista rule ended when they lost the 1990 election

(AP)



International Spectrum

A Glance at International Events



Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU., OCT. 24,1996: ABAN3, 1375: JAMADIAL-THANI 4.1417

Iran Spectrum

A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World News

Wednesday, October 16

UN Hails Iran's Mediation Bid in Region

The United Nations special envoy for Tajik Affairs, Gerd Ditrich Merrem told the Tehran Times here that the United Nations is certainly grateful of Iran's support for settling regional problems, adding that the UN hails Iran in this regard.

Central Asian Countries Express Concern Over Afghan Plight



Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Wednesday on the fourth leg of his five-nation Central Asian tour. The leaders of Central Asian Republics have expressed their concern over outsiders' interference in the affairs of Afghanistan which is contributing further insecurity and instability in that country.

Taleban Boosting Strength in Capital as Key Airbase Falls

Former Afghan government forces have recaptured the key military base of Bagram from the Taleban militia in fighting that left hundreds of dead, witnesses said Wednesday, as the militia poured reinforcements in Kabul.

'Day of Atonement' Launched Outside UN



Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan on Wednesday launched a 'World Day of Atonement' by men, women and children outside the United Nations to mark the anniversary of his 'one million man' march.

Thursday, October 17

Efforts to Minimize Impact of Lebed Sacking on Foreign Relations

The United States, the countries of European Union and Japan were taking pains not to overdramatize the impact of the sacking of Alexander Lebed as Russian security chief on their relations with Russia.

Yeltsin Says He Accepts Lebed's Resignation

President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday he had accepted National Security Chief Alexander Lebed's resignation, saying the controversial ex-general's behavior was damaging to the country.

Official Warns Political Trouble Will Affect Conference

Tension between Arabs and Israel will dim prospects for success at next month's Economic Conference in Cairo, an Egyptian businessman said Thursday.

Seventy Eight Soccer Fans Dead in Stampede

Soccer fans stampeded before a World Cup qualifying match at the Mateo Flores National Stadium in Guatemala City crushing and smothering one another in panic in one of the worst sports tragedies in years. At least 78 people - some of them children - were killed and 127 were hurt, officials said Thursday.

Friday, October 18

U.S. Seeking to Establish a Puppet Regime in Afghanistan

The Substitute Congregational Friday Prayer Leader and Head of Judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, in his first sermon said that Afghan issue had no military solution adding that the United States objective was to establish a puppet regime in Afghanistan and that Taleban's endeavor was to tarnish the image of Islam by presenting the Islamic profile as harsh and stern.

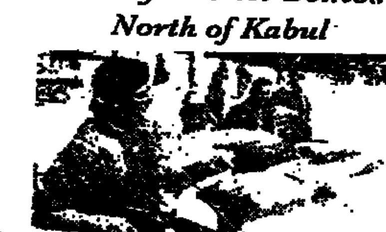
Truce Committee Says Israel Violated Cease-Fire

The five-nation committee monitoring a truce accord in South Lebanon ruled Friday that Israel violated the cease-fire by shelling a Lebanese village and wounding 12 civilians, officials said.

Taiwan Parliament Restores Nuclear Plant Budget

Amid scenes of chaos, Taiwan's Parliament voted late on Friday to restore funding for the island's fourth nuclear power station.

Taleban Jets Drop Deadly Cluster Bombs North of Kabul



Taleban jets dropped deadly cluster bombs on villages north of the capital after a northern Afghan warlord sent his soldiers to fight alongside ousted government troops, witnesses said Friday.

Saturday, October 19

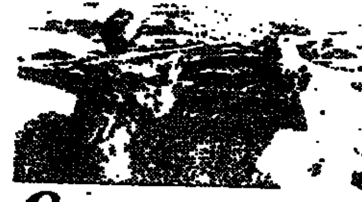
President: Iran Has Good Opportunity to Help Reconstruct Africa

President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Saturday said that agreements reached during his six-nation African visit last September, has opened a good opportunity for Islamic Iran to help develop and reconstruct the African continent.

Highways Blocked Out of Kabul: Bagram Falls to Masood

Fighting north of Kabul between the Taleban fanatic religious militia and the forces of the ex-government has resulted in the closure of the northbound highways, according to eyewitness report.

Egypt Rejects Closer Ties With Israel



Egyptial Culture Minister Faruk Hosni said Saturday his country would not nurture cultural ties with Israel until there was concrete progress in the Middle East peace process.

KDP Storms Toward Rival's Base in Northern Iraq



Baghdad's Kurdish allies were moving toward a stronghold of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) northern Iraq Saturday.

Sunday, October 20

Chirac Demands European Role in Mideast Peace Process



French President Jacques Chirac held a second round of talks with the Syrian leader Hafez al-Assad here Sunday after demanding a larger role for Europe in the troubled Middle East peace process.

Dostom Proposes Cease-Fire on All Afghan Fronts

Afghan warlord General Abdul rashid Dostom has proposed a country-wide cease-fire in Afghanistan from Monday noon (0730 GMT) a Taleban minister said Sunday.

Hashemi Confers With Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary-General




Majlis representative and Chairperson of Iran's Olympic Committee, Faezeh Hashemi, conferred recently with the secretary-general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva.

Monday, October 21

Rightist Aleman Claims Victory in Nicaragua Vote

Right-wing populist Arnoldo Aleman claimed victory on Monday in Nicaragua's presidential elections, preaching reconciliation to a torn nation as new results continued to give him a strong lead.

Chirac Calls For Palestinian State, Golan Pullout

French President Jaques Chirac called on Israel Monday to accept the creation of a Palestinian state and give the Golan Heights back to Syria in the interest of both peace and security.

Tuesday, October 22

Japan, Kenya, Sweden Win Security Council Seats on First Ballot

Japan, Kenya, Sweden, Portugal and Costa Rica won two-year seats on the powerful Security Council, climaxing often intense lobbying for the influential posts.

Local News

Wednesday, October 16

Funeral Ceremony for 750 marters




A funeral ceremony for 750 martyrs of the Eight-Year Sacred defense was held in the presence of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, in front of the Islamic Consultative Assembly(Majlis) Wednesday.

Majma-e-Hizbollah Nominates Presidential



Members of Majma-e-Hizbollah at the Majlis have chosen with majority votes Hussein Mousavi, war-time prime minister, as their candidate for the forthcoming presidential election.

Thursday, October 17

Iran Second for Minting Gold Coins

Iran ranked second after Austria for minting gold coins in 1995, wrote the Italian daily *'Il Sole Ore'* in its latest issue in Rome Thursday.

Iran's Annual Imports Down to $ 12 Billion on Average

Governor general of Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank (IRICB) Mohsen Nourbakhsh said in Isfahan Thursday that the average value of Iran's annual imports had dropped down to $ 12 billion over recent years from $ 20 billion between 1989-93.

Friday, October 18

Majlis Special Committee Gives Women Added Importance

Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) representative for Tehran, Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi, told *Tehran Times* here that the Special Committee for Women and the family recently set up in the Majlis is for the purpose of promoting the rights of women, children and the family as a whole.

Iran's Oil Revenue to Reach Over $ 18 Billion This Year

Iran's oil revenue is expected to amount to over $ 18 billion by the year end (March 20, 1997), indicating a rise of $ 2 billion compared to the previously estimated figure for the year, said Iranian Oil Minister Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh in an interview with IRNA here on Friday.

Saturday, October 19

Iranian Youth Should Be Acquainted With Islamic Values

The deputy head of University Jihad in charge of cultural affairs Hossein Imani, speaking to *Tehran Times* about public culture, defined the subject as what encompasses the public morality and behavior.

Sunday, October 20

Int'l Summit on Religion and Contemporary World to Open



The International Summit on Religion and the Contemporary World is to open in Tehran next month, said head of the Islamic and Cultural Relations Organization, Hojjatoleslam Mahammad Ali Taskhiri at a press conference on Sunday.

Monday, October 21

Leader Stresses Important Role of Census in Programming

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Grand Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei here on Monday put emphasis on the significant role of census in reconstruction and development planning.

Development Plans Aimed at Eliminating Discrimination, Exercising Social Justice

Some 105 construction and development projects came on stream in Ardabil Province on Monday in tandem with president Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's visit to that province.

Tuesday, October 22

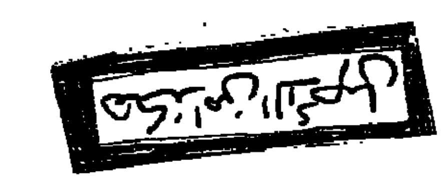
30-Fold Rise in Rafsanjan Pistachio Exports

The Cooperative of Pistachio Producers of Rafsanjan has increased its exports by 30 fold since 1980, earning the country a total of dlrs. 1.2 billion over the last decade and a half, the Executive Manager of the Cooperative, Ahmad Hashemian said.

President Inaugurates Modern Tyre Manufacturing Plant



A tyre manufacturing plant with an annual production capacity of 25,500 tons was inaugurated in this northwestern Ardebil by President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.



That Funny Feeling

Part 1

Coach: "How's life treating you, Norm?" Norm: "Like it caught me in bed with its wife." Geddit? This gag comes from the TV show *Cheers*, and whether you find it funny or not, at the very least you will recognize it for what it is: a joke.

But jokes are funny-peculiar as well as funny-ha-ha. Why, for example, do we laugh? Why do we open our mouths and make this bizarre noise? Why does it feel so good? Believe it or not, research labs are currently filled with guffaws as scientists try to find out what exactly tickles us — and why.

You might think that "getting" a joke doesn't require much in the way of brain power. Take this one: Woman goes into a butcher's shop to buy ingredients for a rabbit stew. She can't see any rabbits, but there are some large hares hanging up. So she says to the butcher: "These are too big. Could you cut one in two for me?" He replies: "Sorry, ma'am, we don't split hares here."

Not a rip-roarer, perhaps — but a nice little pun, don't you think? And you "got" it, didn't you? And when you stop to analyze it, the whole business of getting a joke requires some nifty brain processing.

That joke is particular favorite of Professor Howard Gardner of Harvard University. He has been finding out what exactly is involved in the appreciation of a joke by telling it to brain-damaged patients over a period of years.

"Normally you have to be able to follow the story and try to guess at what is going to happen," he says. "You know the punchline won't be what you expected but — and this is the important part — it will fit in with the story in a way that you hadn't thought of."

Looking for the Brain's Funny Bone

It turns out that patients with damage to their right brain hemisphere can't "get" puns. The hair/hare gag is completely lost on them because they can't tell which parts of the story are relevant and which aren't. However, give them a different ending — such as that the butcher slapped the woman round the face with a pound of liver — and they'll be rolling in the aisles.

Several hours a day of Marx Brothers mayhem helped cure Norman Cousins of ankylosing spondylitis

It seems that slapstick goes down well when the right side of the brain is out of order. But clowns aren't the only ones who have something in common with these patients. Do you know someone who thinks it's dead funny to reply to questions literally? You: "Can you help me with this ladder?" Your friend: "Yes." He then stands stock-still with a stupid grin on his face. Annoying, huh?

Patients with right-side brain damage do the same. Not because they want to be annoying, but because they can't pick up on the subtleties of the question. Picking up on linguistic ambiguities is only part of what's involved in humor, of course. For a start, when we find something funny, the whole brain swings into action in a specific way. Professor Peter Derks, of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, recorded the brain waves of people who were reading a typical joke of the hairs/hares type. First the left hemisphere, which deals with the meaning of words, lit up — then most of the brain activity moved to the frontal lobe where emotions are processed; moments later the right hemisphere joined in; then the occipital lobe, where information from the senses is processed, kicked in too. Only then did laughter occur.

So although damage to one bit of the brain can cause humor breakdown, there's clearly no such thing as a "funniness area" in there.

No, Seriously: Jokes Are Good for You

One night that does seem clear, though, is that humor is good for your health. Clowns are now a feature on children's wards both here and in the U.S. American stress expert Dr. Carl Simonton regularly holds seminars entitled "The Power of Humor" in which up to 1,000 medical delegates pelt him with marshmallows. There is even an American magazine called the *Journal of Nursing Jocularity*.

But why? Ever since Norman Cousins cured himself of ankylosing spondylitis — an inflammatory condition of the spine — by watching old Marx Brothers movies for several hours a day nearly 20 years ago, researchers have been trying to pin down why laughter is such a good medicine.

It now seems clear that it is a good way of relaxing and so combatting stress. Laughter helps to slow down the heart rate as well as reducing blood pressure. It also makes the muscles in the chest and shoulders contract, which relieves the tension that builds up in those areas. Added to which, it makes people less hostile — a major factor in heart attacks.

Relaxing also has the effect of boosting the immune system. In a series of carefully controlled studies, Dr Lawrence Berk, a member of Loma Linda University School of Medicine's Department of Clinical Immunology, has found that laughing reduces levels of the stress hormone cortisol and increases the number of infection-fighting lymphocytes in the blood stream. Other researchers have found that comedy films boost the amount of salivary immunoglobulin — the first line of defense against the various bugs that cause colds and coughs. Humor has a beneficial psychological effect as well. "The ability to laugh at our problems gives us a feeling of power," says Patty Wooten, a contributor to the *Journal of Nursing Jocularity* (I'm serious!). "It encourages positive and hopeful feelings. As long as we can have a giggle, we are less likely to succumb to feelings of depression and helplessness."

Laughter is a complex flashpoint of heart, mind and social standing. Science is only just beginning to discover what jokes really do to our brains and bodies.

As a discovery, this is not entirely new, of course. As long ago as 1300, professor of surgery Henri de Mandeville wrote: "Let the surgeon take care to regulate the whole regimen of the patient's life for joy and happiness, allowing his relatives and special friends to cheer him, and by having someone tell him jokes." Modern surgeons, observe.

In fact, De Mandeville's prescription was rather unusual for his time. The idea that laughter is a good thing is a relatively recent one; until recently, such an idea would have elicited a scornful response from most medical men. In 1748, for instance, the Earl of Chesterfield offered the following advice to his son: "There is nothing so illiberal and so ill-bred as audible laughter." And Plato thought the main reason for laughing was to make fun of those less fortunate than oneself.

We tell jokes the same way we make love

(Courtesy the Focus)

(To Be Continued Next Thursday)

The anatomy of a rib-tickler

Brain: calming and pain-killing endorphins are released into the body by the hypothalamus

Eyes: become bright and sparkling owing to reflex tear-production from smiling

Torso: violent spasms shake the ribcage and the lungs expel air at 60mph

Face: muscles contract, the nostrils dilate and air from the lungs vibrate the vocal chords

Legs: the muscles relax, sometimes causing the knees to bend

Feet: the toes tend to wiggle

Entertaining in Style

Orange Sorbet

You will need...

3 oz. castor sugar
$\frac{1}{2}$ pint water
6 oz. can frozen concentrated orange juice
1 egg white

Preparation time
15 minutes

Put the sugar and water into a pan and heat slowly until the sugar has dissolved. Allow this syrup to cool.

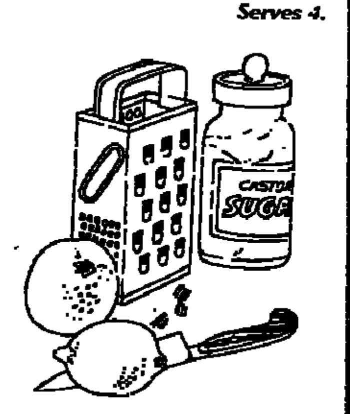
Add the undiluted orange juice to the sugar syrup. Blend them together, then pour the liquid into a 1-pint shallow, plastic lidded container. Put the sorbet in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator for half an hour or until barely firm.

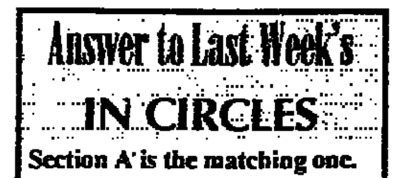
Turn into a bowl and mash down until there are no large pieces. Then fold in the stiffly whisked egg white. Return to the container, cover and return to the freezing compartment until required. Thaw the sorbet in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before serving in individual glasses.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP

Lemon and orange sugar – when using only the juice of either lemons or oranges finely grate off the rinds first and blend with castor sugar. Store in separate jars and use the flavored sugar for lemon or orange Victoria sandwiches.





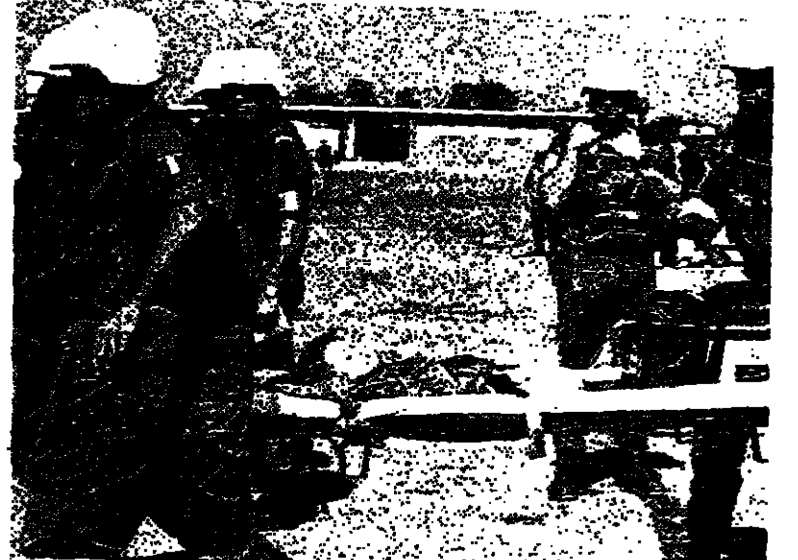
Car Chase

Can you help this driver to reach the finishing-line?

(Solution Next Thursday)

Feature

Happy 51st Anniversary!



UN peacekeepers evacuate a severely wounded child in Sarajevo.

The United Nations is today an organization of 185 nations—nearly every state on the planet—legally committed to cooperate in supporting the principles and purposes spelled out in its charter. These include commitments to eradicate war, promote human rights, maintain respect for justice and international law, promote social progress and friendly relations among nations—with the organization as a center to harmonize their actions in order to attain these ends.

The United Nations Charter was written in the closing days of World War II by the representatives of 50 governments meeting at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945. The charter was drafted on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, France, the (former) Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States when they met at the Dumbarton Oaks Estate in Washington in August-October 1944. The charter was adopted and signed on June 26, 1945 by the representatives of the 50 states participating in the conference, and later by a fifty-first state, Poland, which had been unable to attend.

With the founding of the United Nations, a framework for international cooperation on a scale unprecedented in human history was put in place and in the nearly five decades since then membership in the organization has tripled.

In large part because of the climate of the cold war which had prevailed from the 1949s until recent times, it was many years before the possibilities for cooperation inherent in the charter could be fully explored. Still, in that time, the United Nations and its agencies have registered a solid list of accomplishments.

To millions of refugees from war and persecution, the United Nations has provided shelter and relief. It has acted as a major catalyst in the evolution of 100 million people from colonial rule to independence and sovereignty. It has established peace-keeping operations 26 times to contain hostilities and to help resolve conflicts. It has expanded and codified international law. It has wiped smallpox from the face of the planet. In the five decades of its existence, the organization has adopted more than 70 legal instruments promoting or obligating respect for human rights, thus facilitating a historic change in the popular expectation of freedom throughout the world.

To commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945, United Nations is celebrated each year on this day, October 24, the day when China, France, the (former) Soviet Union, the U.K. and the U.S. and a majority of other signatories, ratified the charter. (Courtesy of *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, DPI, New York, 1992.)

A Prayer for Peace on United Nations Day

By Our Staff

Half a century of hard work and challenges, United Nations, you're a proud 51 years old today. We wish you strength and more fruitful years ahead.

Many of us were hardly conceived when you came into existence. Now you're a superstructure wielding power over virtually almost all countries in the world. Your every decision has instantaneous effect on almost every aspect of our existence, and our problems are no secret to you.

The world has never known as many wars as there are today. Every war claims its share of innocent victims. Who will ever know how many disabled there are as a result of fighting in Afghanistan and Iraqi Kurdestan? How many times over do Tutsis and Hutus have to fight it out in Rwanda? How many children have been left orphaned or abandoned in the former Yugoslavia? When will Palestinians ever be secure in a land that is rightfully theirs?

Mr. Secretary-General, you always have scapegoats for your lacklustre performance. As of late it is the UN budget. You've been so frank as to admit that your inability to meet the many global problems calling for UN response has been hampered financially.

No kidding. For us in the Third World your decisions could mean the difference between life and death. But while everyone agrees on the need to assign priority to children in war-ravaged countries in the provision of food, water, shelter and medicine, debates in the hallowed corridors of your headquarters as to logistics, etc. hamper early action. Meanwhile millions die as a result of calloused countries—your respectable members—which prefer to lay in wait in their comfortable world.



A UN investigator photographs the remains of a slaughtered Tutsi.

Times have changed since you came into being. You have evolved into a massive bureaucracy that seems to be so near to our lives and yet so far, far away. When can we ever be truly the beneficiaries of your promises to make the world free from war or the threat of war as an instrument of settling international disputes? We are tired of war. Day-in, day-out the media bring us the muzzle-flesh of the guns and the roaring of the shells. We would be shocked by the violence were it not for the sheer number which now makes it commonplace.

In the grip of war, or the fog of war, our hopes are that you will metamorphose into a truly forceful organization that is demanded by the next millenium. To say that you have been responsible for many peace-making efforts is a majestic understatement. You have triumphed over and above your limitations.

And even when war shall have totally wiped out our lands and belongings, we believe man will still prevail. We believe so because, in the last analysis, it is love, forgiveness, understanding and tolerance that will triumph over and above any nuclear deterrents, nuclear non-proliferation treaties, conventional or weapons of mass destruction. And, it is on the basis of human understanding that nations will act to preserve this world.

We pray that the challenge to make this world a more peaceful one will be accepted with more earnestness and may the Almighty guide every decision that you make.

Fascinating Facts

Third Eye Leads a Lizard Home

To Yarrow's spiny lizard, home is where a third eye on top of the head directs it. Left to its own devices, the eight-inch-long lizard can almost always find its home range in the rocky canyons of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Biologists Barbara Ellis-Quinn and Carol A. Simon of New York's City College confirmed the homing ability by surgically implanting radio transmitters in 42 lizards and tracking them after they were released 500 feet from their territories. No problem. But when the scientists covered the third, or parietal, eye, the creatures wandered aimlessly.

The parietal eye, a sensory organ connected to a gland in the brain called the pineal, perceives sunlight but cannot focus as the lateral eyes can. "The lizard determines where it is in relation to the sun at a particular time of day," says Simon. To confirm this, the biologists shifted body clocks ahead six hours by keeping the reptiles in the laboratory for a week under artificial light. After release, the lizards oriented relative to where the sun would be in their artifical day and headed in the wrong direction. (Courtesy of *National Geographic*, October 1993.)

Answers to last week's ABOUT TURN:
Kate's, Keats, takes, stake, skate, steak.

Travelogue

Shah Alam's Light in the Park

Tehran Times Service

A town's backyard has been transformed into one of Malaysia's premier tourist attractions, almost without residents realizing it.

Most residents of Shah Alam, more renowned for its factories, motor racing track and as the seat of the Selangor state government, were ignorant of the locality.



A burger stand inside the park.

Three years ago the first signs of change happened. The bulldozers moved in, clearing wide swaths over former footpaths. Wood-and-tile structures went up. Temporary tentage were strung between the tall trees. A swamp became a lake. An untidy marsh became a geometry of padi fields. Ornamental plants lined the clearings. The tangled undergrowth on the forest floor were cut away and replaced with grass or plots of orchid, mushroom, and spice gardens. Bird and animal enclosures, paved paths, suspension foot-bridges and toilets appeared. Still people did not know.

Then, one fine weekend, just over a year ago, people knew, and they came by the thousands. In a blaze of publicity, with the print and electronic media in full attendance, the federal government unveiled its Malaysia Agriculture Park. In separate sessions came sultans, ministers, foreign government guests, farmer organization members, boy scouts, kampung folks, and yes, the residents of Shah Alam.

Early in 1990, Solah Mat Hassan, the park manager, went on a three-week tour of 25 theme parks in the United States to pick up new ideas.

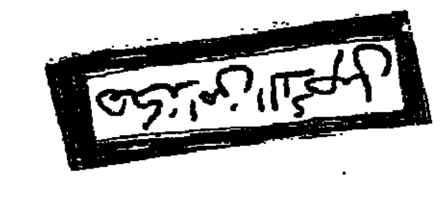
The **Buki Cahaya Park,** 1295 ha. of primary lowland forest stretching from the Batu Tiga Shah Alam Motor Racking Track and up to the Sungai Buluh-Kuala Selangor road in Malaysia's north, is fast gaining fame not only among Malaysians but also foreigners. It is a showcase of agricultural specimens, recreational facilities and the arts in a forest setting, with plots of cocoa, tea, fruit trees, herbs and medicinal plants as the newest additions. One lake is stocked with fish for anglers while another is the site of a model fish-rearing station. Recreational activities catered for include jogging, hill-walking, canoeing, picnicking, horse-riding, angling and just sitting around! Bench seats are the order of the day. Wooden buildings modelled on traditional designs house agricultural exhibits or the arts. There is a road in the park which leads to a model Orang Asli kampung.

Much remains to be done. "My dream is to see that the park will, in five to 10 years from now, become as good as, if not better than, the established parks in the world such as Tivoli Garden in Copenhagen and Disneyland in America," says Solah.

Perhaps one of the nicest surprises about the park can be summed up in the words of a resident of Section 8, the neighborhood which adjoins the park: "Its amazing really to think that what used to be one's backyard which everybody turned up their noses at is now the focus of visitors from all over the world!" (Courtesy of *Wings of Gold*, May 1991.)



A suspension bridge in the park.



TODAY IN HISTORY

1931 - The George Washington Bridge, connecting New York and New Jersey, opened to traffic.

1940 - The 40-hour work week went into effect under the fair labor standards act of 1938.

1945 - The United Nations officially came into existence as its charter took effect.

1952 - In a speech in Detroit, Republican presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower declared, "I shall go to Korea" as he promised to end the conflict.

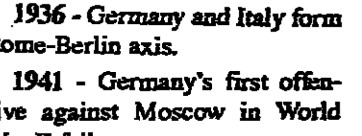
1962 - The U.S. blockade of Cuba during the missile crisis officially began under a proclamation signed by President John Kennedy the day before.

1983 - President Ronald Reagan told a news conference he was determined to keep U.S. marines stationed in Lebanon, despite a truck-bomb attack in Beirut the day before that had claimed the lives of 241 servicemen.

1994 - An elderly art lover in Zurich is robbed for the second time in three years of paintings by Pablo Picasso with an estimated value of $40 million.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Mojtaba Takin



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1936 - Germany and Italy form Rome-Berlin axis.

1941 - Germany's first offensive against Moscow in World War II fails.

1956 - Egypt, Jordan and Syria form unified military command.

1966 - Indonesia's former Foreign Minister Subandrio is sentenced to death.

1971 - United Nations seats China and expels nationalist Chinese.

1974 - Foreign ministers of 19 Arab countries meet in Rabat, Morocco, and vote strong support for Palestine Liberation Organization.

1987 - Indian peacekeeping forces wrest control of most of Jaffna town in northern Sri Lanka but still face Tamil rebel snipers.

1989 - Soviet state bank announces ruble will be devalued by nearly 90 percent for tourists and businessmen.

1993 - Israel begins freeing Palestinian prisoners under deal with PLO.

1994 - Oil spill from a broken pipeline pollutes two rivers and tundra in Russia's far north.

Short Story

Father and I

By Par Lagerkvist

I remember one Sunday afternoon when I was about ten years old, Daddy took my hand and we went for a walk in the woods to hear the birds sing. We waved good-bye to mother, who was staying at home to prepare supper, and so couldn't go with us. The sun was bright and warm as we set out briskly on our way. We didn't take this bird-singing too seriously, as though it was something special or unusual. We were sensible people, Daddy and I. We were used to the woods and the creatures in them, so we didn't make any fuss about it. It was just because it was Sunday afternoon and Daddy was free. We went along the railway line where other people aren't allowed to go, but Daddy belonged to the railway and had a right to. And in this way we came direct into the woods and did not need to take a roundabout way. Then the bird song and all the rest began at once. They chirped in the bushes; hedge-sparrows, thrushes, and warblers; and we heard all the noises of the little creatures as we came into the woods. The ground was thick with anemones, the birches were dressed in their new leaves, and the pines had young, green shoots. There was such a pleasant smell everywhere. The mossy ground was steaming a little, because the sun was shining upon it. Everywhere there was life and noise; bumble-bees flew out of their holes, midges circled where it was damp. The birds shot out of the bushes to catch them and then dived back again. All of a sudden a train came rushing along and we had to go down the embankment. Daddy hailed the driver with two fingers to his Sunday hat: the driver saluted and waved his hand. Everything seemed on the move. As we went on our way along the sleepers which lay and oozed tar in the sunshine, there was a smell of everything, machine oil and almond blossom, tar and heather, all mixed. We took big steps from sleeper to sleeper so as not to step among the stones, which were rough to walk on, and wore your shoes out. The rails shone in the sunshine. On both sides of the line stood the telephone poles that sang as we went by them.

Yes! That was a fine day! The sky was absolutely clear. There wasn't a single could to be seen; there just couldn't be any on a day like this, according to what Daddy said. after a while we came to a field of oats on the right side of the line, where a farmer, whom we knew, had a clearing. The oats had grown thick and even; Daddy looked at it knowingly and I could feel that he was satisfied. I didn't understand that sort of thing much, because I was born in town. Then we came to the bridge over the brook that mostly hadn't much water in it, but now there was plenty. We took hands so that we shouldn't fall down between the sleepers. From there it wasn't far to the railway gatekeeper's little place, which was quite buried in green. There were apple trees and gooseberry bushes right close to the house. We went in there, to pay a visit, and they offered us milk. We looked at the pigs, the hens, and the fruit trees, which were in full blossom, and then we went on again. We wanted to go to the river, because there it was prettier than anywhere else. There was something special about the river, because higher up stream it flowed past Daddy's old home. We never liked going back before we got to it, and, as usual, this time we got there after a fair walk. It wasn't far to the next station, but we didn't go on there. Daddy just looked to see whether the signals were right. He thought of everything. We stopped by the river, where it flowed broad and friendly in the sunshine, and the thick leafy trees on the banks mirrored themselves in the calm water. It was all so fresh and bright. A breeze came from the little lakes higher up. We climbed down the bank, went a little way along the very edge. Daddy showed me the fishing spots. When he was a boy he used to sit there on the stones and wait for perch all day long. Often he didn't get a single bite, but it was a delightful way to spend the day. Now he never had time. We played about for some time by the side of the river, and threw in pieces of bark that the current carried away, and we threw stones to see who could throw farthest. We were, by nature, very merry and cheerful, Daddy and I. After a while we felt a bit tired. We thought we had played enough, so we started off home again.

Then it began to get dark. The woods were changed. It wasn't quite dark yet, but almost. We made haste. Maybe mother was getting anxious, and waiting supper. She was always afraid that something might happen, though nothing had. This had been a splendid day. Everything had been just as it should, and we were satisfied with it all. It was getting darker and darker, and the trees were so queer. They stood and listened for the sound of our footsteps, as though they didn't know who we were. There was a glow-worm under one of them. It lay down there in the dark and stared at us. I held Daddy's hand tight, but he didn't seem to notice the strange light: he just went on. It was quite dark when we came to the bridge over the stream. It was roaring down underneath us as if it wanted to swallow us up, as the ground seemed to open under us. We went along the sleepers carefully, holding hands tight so that we shouldn't fall in. I thought Daddy would carry me over, but he didn't say anything about it. I suppose he wanted me to be like him, and not think anything of it. We went on. Daddy was so calm in the darkness, walking with even steps without speaking. He was thinking his own thoughts. I couldn't understand how he could be so calm when everything was so ghostly. I looked round scared. It was nothing but darkness everywhere. I hardly dared to breathe deeply, because then the darkness comes into one, and that was dangerous, I thought. One must die soon. I remember quite well thinking so then. The railway embankment was very steep. It finished in black night. The telephone posts stood up ghostlike against the sky, mumbling deep inside as though someone were speaking, way down in the earth. The white China hats sat there scared, cowering with fear, listening. It was all so creepy. Nothing was real, nothing was natural, all seemed a mystery. I went closer to Daddy, and whispered: "Why is it so creepy when it's dark?"

"No child, it isn't creepy," he said, and took my hand.

"Oh, yes, but it is, Daddy."

"No, you mustn't think that. We know there is a God don't we?" I felt so lonely, so abandoned. It was queer that it was only me that was frightened, and not Daddy. It was queer that we didn't feel the same about it. and it was queerer still that what he said didn't help, didn't stop me being frightened. Not even what he said about God helped. The thought of God made one feel creepy too. It was creepy to think that He was everywhere here in the darkness, down there under the trees, and in the telephone posts that mumbled so — probably that was Him everywhere. But all the same one could never see Him.

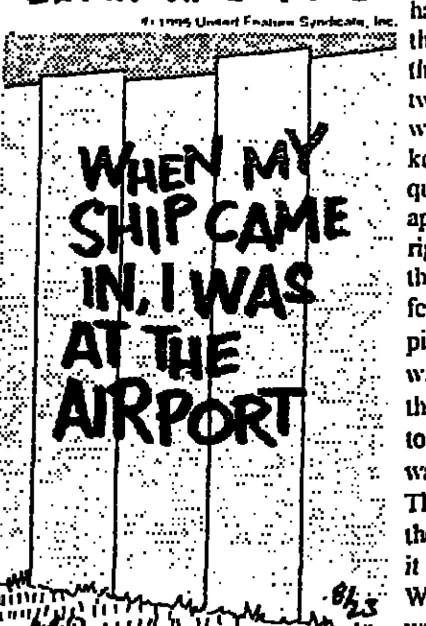
We went along silently, each of us thinking his own thoughts. My heart felt cramped as though the darkness had come in and was squeezing it.

Then, when we were in a bend, we suddenly heard a great noise behind us. We were startled out of our thoughts. Daddy pulled me down the embankment and held me tight, and a train rushed by; a black train. The lights were out in all the carriages, as it whizzed past us. What could it be? There shouldn't be any train now. We looked at it, frightened. The furnace roared in the big engine, where they shovelled in coal, and the parks flew out into the night. It was terrible. The driver stood so pale and immovable, with such a stony look in the glare. Daddy didn't recognize him — didn't know who he was. He was just looking ahead as though he was driving straight into darkness, far into darkness, which had no end.

Startled and panting with fear I looked after the wild thing. It was swallowed up in the night. Daddy helped me up on to the line, and we hurried home. He said, "That was strange! What train was that I wonder? And I didn't know the driver either." Then he didn't say any more.

I was shaking all over. That had been for me — for my sake. I guessed what it meant. It was all the fear which would come to me, all the unknown; all that Daddy didn't know about, and couldn't save me from. That was how the world would be for me, and the strange life I should live; not like Daddy's, where everyone was known and sure. It wasn't a real world, or a real life; — it just rushed burning into the darkness which had no end.

GRAFFITI

GARFIELD

WE TAKE 10 PACES, TURN AND RACE FOR THE FOOD

AAND... ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR... FIVE... SIX... SEVEN...

EIGHT... NINE...

